



Jefferson County LEADER

'Once a week but never weakly'



Vol. 29, No. 52

Thursday, August 17, 2023

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Cycling craze

The annual Bottleneck Bridge Bicycle Ride began on Festus Main Street last weekend. Mason Kiper, 13, and his dad, Kevin, center, both from High Ridge, stop to talk to a friend, Constantine Romo of St. Charles, as they make their way to the starting gate. To read more about the event, see Page 22A.



Taking a toll

Alzheimer's caregivers are not alone

By Teresa Inserra
For the Leader

Sanity sessions. That's what Debi Govero calls Alzheimer's caregiver support group meetings. The Alzheimer's Association offers two support groups in Jefferson County, and Govero leads one of them.

It is held from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Friday of the month at the First Baptist Church of Festus-Crystal City. Govero, 66, of Coffman said the meeting is for those who take care of family members with Alzheimer's.

Tina Hartung, 56, of unincorporated Fenton, leads another support group from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in

This is the third part of a four-part series on Alzheimer's, a disease that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills, and eventually the ability to carry out simple, daily tasks. The disease, often referred to as "the long goodbye," is devastating to those who have it, as well as their family members and friends. The series focuses on the disease, how it is diagnosed, progress in research and resources available for caregivers.

High Ridge.

No reservations or signup are needed to take part in the caregiver support groups.

See ALZHEIMER'S, Page 21A



Tina Hartung holds up a Walk to End Alzheimer's Champion sign in support of the Alzheimer's Association.

Keeping pace

Crystal City administrative salary costs rise slightly

By Tony Krausz
For the Leader

Crystal City School District's administrative salary costs have risen by just more than \$18,000 this school year.

The district reported it will pay its five administrators a total of \$459,540 for the 2023-2024 school year after spending \$441,482.20 on administrative salaries for the 2022-2023 school year.

Superintendent Crystal Reiter, who was hired to replace Matt Holdinghausen who retired at the end of last school year, said she believes the district's administrative salaries are similar to those at other county school districts.



Crystal Reiter

"To be competitive, we kind of have to be sure that we are in line with what other school districts are paying," she said.

Reiter's salary for this school year is \$120,000. Holdinghausen's salary was \$115,618 last year.

Reiter said the district's administrative salaries are not only in line with those at other county school districts, but also with salaries at school districts across the state with the same number of students as Crystal City.

She said Crystal City is projected

See CRYSTAL SALARY, Page 23A

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Dunklin R-5 tears down houses for gym project

By Kevin Carbery
For the Leader

The Dunklin R-5 School District has begun demolishing houses on property it owns as part of its new high school gym construction project.

The new gym, which will be built next to the Herculaneum High School theater, will be funded with revenue from a \$13.5 million bond issue voters approved in April.

The Dunklin Board of Education awarded a contract to D R & J Trucking in De Soto to demolish the homes for \$6,000 each.

"That was the low bid of three," Superintendent Clint Freeman said.

He said the demolition began on Aug. 1 on the houses, which are located behind Herculaneum High School, 1 Black Cat Drive. The addresses of the houses are 293 Broadway and 299 Broadway.

The demolition was still underway on Tuesday but should be wrapped up soon, said Matt Lichtenstein, the district's communications director. Freeman said recent wet weather has slowed the demolition work.

Once the houses are gone, the site work will continue, Lichtenstein said.

"They'll be hauling away the house parts," he said. "They also will be filling in the basement hole for future use as a



Demolition began on Aug. 1 on the houses, which are located behind Herculaneum High School.

parking lot for the gym."

Lichtenstein said the site where the houses are being demolished will be a parking area for events at the new gym.

Freeman said district officials intend to bid out the gym construction project in December.

"It probably will be a \$9 million to \$10 million construction project," he said. "Our target is to have it open in April 2025."

Freeman said specifics for the gym construction are still being decided.

"It will be about a 700-seat gym," Freeman said. "We don't know yet about the square footage."

"We will continue to use the high school's current gym. This will give us more room for more sports teams to operate at the same time."

In addition to the new gym, revenue

from the bond issue will be used to build more secure entryways at Pevely Elementary School and Senn-Thomas Middle School. The district's other two schools, Herculaneum High School and Taylor Early Childhood Center, already had secure entryways.

"Our safe and secure entryways at Pevely Elementary and Senn-Thomas Middle School will go out to bid Aug. 8," Freeman said.

Lichtenstein said the existing gym at the high school was built in 1964.



Site of the new high school gym.



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Correction

In a story in the Aug. 10 *Leader* about a vehicle theft from a Hillsboro business, the arrest of two suspects occurred on a car dealership lot. The story had incorrect information about where the arrest occurred. The *Leader* apologizes for the error.

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Council likely to deny plans for homeless center

By Steve Taylor
For the Leader

The Jefferson County Council appears ready to deny plans to convert a long-vacant motel and restaurant north of Hillsboro into a transitional housing center for homeless people.

The council voted 4-2 on Monday to place a resolution on its Aug. 28 agenda to deny a conditional-use permit that would allow the New Hope Outreach Center, described as a religious sanctuary and rehabilitation center, on the site of the former Opal's Motel and Restaurant at 9637 Old Hwy. 21.

On July 24, the council had voted 3-2 against advancing an ordinance to allow the conditional-use permit. Monday's vote was to determine how to proceed with the request.

About 125 people packed the Jefferson County Administration Center in Hillsboro, and before the vote was taken, 47 of them told the County Council they supported New Hope's plans, while 26 said they opposed the center.

The council later took its vote to place the resolution to deny on the next agenda without comment.

Council members Gene Barbagallo (District 2, Imperial), Shannon Otto (District 3, Arnold), Charles Groeteke (District 4, Barnhart) and Bob Tullock (District 7, House Springs) voted to place the resolution to deny on the agenda; Scott Seek (District 5, Festus) and Dan Stallman (District 6, De Soto) cast dissenting votes. Brian Haskins (District 1, High Ridge) was absent.

The Jefferson County Planning and

Zoning Commission, which advises the County Council on land-use issues in unincorporated areas, voted 6-2 on July 13 to recommend approval of the permit.

The permit would allow up to 20 homeless people to be housed at the center, although New Hope officials said that reaching that capacity would be a long-range possibility, dependent on donations collected to renovate or replace buildings on the site.

At first, only four people would be housed in one of the former motel buildings, with another four to eight once it is rehabbed. The restaurant would be rehabbed as a religious sanctuary and office space.

Those accepted into the facility would live there six months, during which they would receive vocational training. Follow-up services would continue for a year after they leave the facility, New Hope officials said.

Other health and wellness services would be provided by Compass Health (formerly Comtrex), the Jefferson County Health Department, the Jefferson-Franklin Community Action Corporation and Mercy Hospital Jefferson, New Hope officials said.

At earlier meetings, Tullock said he had concerns that New Hope would not have a staff member on site around the clock until 10 people were housed there.

Last year, New Hope had proposed a larger-scale homeless facility on 28.19 acres owned by the Jefferson Baptist Association on Baptist Park Road in the Mapaville area.

That request was denied in November by the County Council.



Steve Taylor photo

Linda Lyons of De Soto tells the Jefferson County Council that she is in favor of plans to convert a vacant motel and restaurant north of Hillsboro into a homeless transition center while a full house of both proponents and opponents look on.

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News briefs

Big truck crashes on I-55 in Pevely, slowing traffic for two hours

Traffic was snarled on southbound I-55 for nearly two hours Aug. 10 following a one-vehicle near the Hwy. Z exit in Pevely.

No injuries were reported, Pevely Police Chief Mark Glenn said.

He said the Pevely Police Department received a call at 9:35 a.m. about the accident.

"It was a (big truck) on southbound I-55 south of Hwy. Z," Glenn said. "He just drove off the roadway and the vehicle went over on its side. It had 37,000 pounds of cargo, which explains how it tipped over."

The officers' accident report was not completed as of Aug. 11, so no information was available about the driver's identity; the make and model of the truck; nor the condition of the truck, Glenn said.

He said it took emergency responders about two hours to remove the truck from the side of the interstate, which affected traffic in the area.

"We had the right lane closed for a significant portion of the morning," Glenn

said. "The traffic kind of shut down on its own when the truck ran off the road. When officers got there, they kept the right lane closed. We had no other traffic issues. The lane reopened sometime after 11 a.m."

-- Leader staff

Body found at Herculaneum City Park

A hiker discovered a man's body Aug. 9 in Herculaneum City Park.

Authorities were still attempting to reach next of kin on Aug. 10 and had not yet released the name of the deceased, a 38-year-old St. Louis County man, Herculaneum Police Chief Sharia Kyle said.

She said the hiker encountered the body along a trail in the park.

"It was just someone passing by," Kyle said. "It is not considered suspicious at this time, but it is still under investigation."

She said no other details are being released at this time.

Anyone with information is urged to call the Herculaneum Police at 636-479-4791.

-- Leader staff

It's over

Governor signs legislation ending 911 Dispatch sales tax dispute

By Kevin Carbery
For the Leader

Jefferson County 911 Dispatch may continue to collect its full 1/2-cent sales tax without further legal action after Gov. Mike Parson recently signed legislation ending a long-standing dispute about the tax.

Travis Williams, the Jefferson County 911 Dispatch chief, said language included in Senate Bill 24, a public safety bill, which Parson signed July 27, means the agency he heads up no longer has to worry about losing half of its funding source.

"I'm very happy it's over and we can continue to provide the best service possible to our citizens," he said. "What Senate Bill 24 did was remove the language from State Statute 190.327 (that limited Jefferson County 911 Dispatch to collect no more than a 1/4-cent sales tax)."

The dispute began when then-Sen. Paul Wieland, R-Imperial, added a legislative amendment to Senate Bill 291, which went into effect in 2019. The bill was designed to "clean up" previous legislation intended to expand 911 coverage into underserved parts of the state, according to state publications at the time.

Wieland's amendment was intended to prohibit Jefferson County 911 Dispatch



Paul Wieland

"It's kind of a sigh of relief. We've been fighting this battle for about five years. It removes a cloud over our head as we go forward."

Travis Williams
Jefferson County 911 Dispatch chief



from collecting anything above a 1/4-cent sales tax, even though in April 2019 Jefferson County voters approved 911's request to continue collecting the 1/2-cent sales tax instead of reducing it by half, as called for in a sunset clause that was part of the sales tax proposal when voters first approved the 1/2-cent sales tax in 2009.

Williams noted that the tax dispute has been a long struggle.

"It's kind of a sigh of relief," he said. "We've been fighting this battle for about five years. It removes a cloud over our head as we go forward."

He said 911 collects about \$9 million per year in revenue from the 1/2-cent sales tax, and it would have been devastating for the agency if it had to reduce that amount by half.

"We never really considered having to give money back. I don't know how (the Missouri Department of Revenue-DOR) could have given the money back to taxpayers. But, it was still hanging over our heads where we were worried about losing that money in the future."

Williams said he credits current Jef-

erson County legislators for championing the agency's cause and getting the language removed that could have cut its funding.

John Scullin, chairman of the 911 Board of Directors, said he and other agency leaders have always felt Wieland's amendment unfairly singled out their agency.

"What it boiled down to is a person or small group of people who did not like the tax," Scullin said. "I think everyone can agree it was special legislation to stop us from collecting the voter-approved tax funds."

Wieland, who has since left the Senate after reaching its term limits, said he opposed the agency's pursuit to keep the full 1/2-cent sales tax, saying that when voters initially approved it, they wanted it reduced in 10 years. He also has disputed



John Scullin

that the agency needed the extra money generated by the 1/2-cent sales tax.

Last week Wieland said he still feels the 1/2-cent sales tax should have reverted to a 1/4-cent sales tax.

"It doesn't surprise me," he said of the move to remove his amendment that could have limited the sales tax to 1/4 cent. "I still think collecting it is a disservice to the taxpayers."

Scullin said the dispute cost Jefferson County 911 Dispatch significant legal expenses, not to mention the legal fees agencies enforcing the legislation have paid.

"We've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on this," Scullin said.

Williams said 911 already has paid \$335,000 in legal fees stemming from the dispute, adding that by the time it's over, the agency could pay about \$400,000.

Scullin said that the agency's sales tax funding allows it to maintain quality service.

"We are at 99 percent compliance in answering incoming 911 calls," he said. "Compare that with St. Louis city, where they have a very high percentage of not answering calls."

From the start, Jefferson County 911 Dispatch officials contended that Wieland's amendment unfairly singled out the agency since it stipulated that 911 agencies serving counties with a charter form of government and with a population between 200,000 and 350,000 could not have a sales tax greater than 1/4 cent. Jefferson County is the only county in the state that meets that criteria, Williams said.

News briefs

Man convicted of shooting, killing Festus man

A Jefferson County jury has found Maleak R. Brown, 23, guilty of four felonies for shooting and killing Marcus Lorenzo James of Festus. He was 22.

Brown had recent addresses in Barnhart and Centreville, Ill., authorities reported.

On Aug. 9, the jury found Brown

guilty of unlawful use of a weapon, a class A felony punishable by 10 to 30 years or life in prison; voluntary manslaughter, a class B felony that carries a penalty of five to 15 years in prison; and two counts of armed



Maleak Brown

criminal action, each one an unclassified felony punishable by a minimum of three years in prison.

Brown is scheduled to be sentenced by Jefferson County Div. 4 Circuit Judge Brenda Stacey on Oct. 19.

Brown shot and killed James on June 15, 2022, at an apartment in the 1500 block of Westvale Drive in Festus.

Witnesses told officers that Brown and James were involved in a physical altercation in a downstairs apartment

at the complex, and then James went to his apartment upstairs. In the meantime, Brown went to his car and retrieved a firearm and allegedly went to James' apartment and tried to get inside but could not and fired through the door five times, striking James and killing him, the probable-cause statement in the case said.

Jefferson County assistant prosecuting attorney Courtney Goodwin is handling the case.

-- Leader staff

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Man drowns in Big River near Rockford Beach

It's the second drowning this summer

By Abby Stetina
For the Leader

A man drowned in the Big River near Rockford Beach in House Springs on Aug. 12.

Officials believe the man fell into the river that afternoon and disappeared under the water. His body was found later that day.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol has not released the man's name, age or hometown because his next of kin has not yet been notified, Cpl. Dallas Thompson said Aug. 14 at *Leader* deadline.

"(The man) was walking along the rocks at the dam at Rockford Beach. People he was with lost sight of him. They approached a (Jefferson County Sheriff's Office) deputy and said they lost track of him. He reportedly couldn't swim," said John Barton, the High Ridge Fire Protection District chief.

Barton said the man's body was found in approximately 8 feet of water near an area with strong currents.

"We don't know the exact detail of what happened because nobody witnessed it," Barton said. "It sounds like he was walking along the rocks, which would have been slippery if there was moss on it. The current would have taken him pretty quickly."

The High Ridge Fire Protection District got a call for a water rescue near Rockford Beach at 3:25 p.m.

"When the first unit arrived on the scene, they were informed that an adult male was last seen floating in the water before disappearing, and he did not resurface," High Ridge Fire reported in a written statement. "Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the deceased."

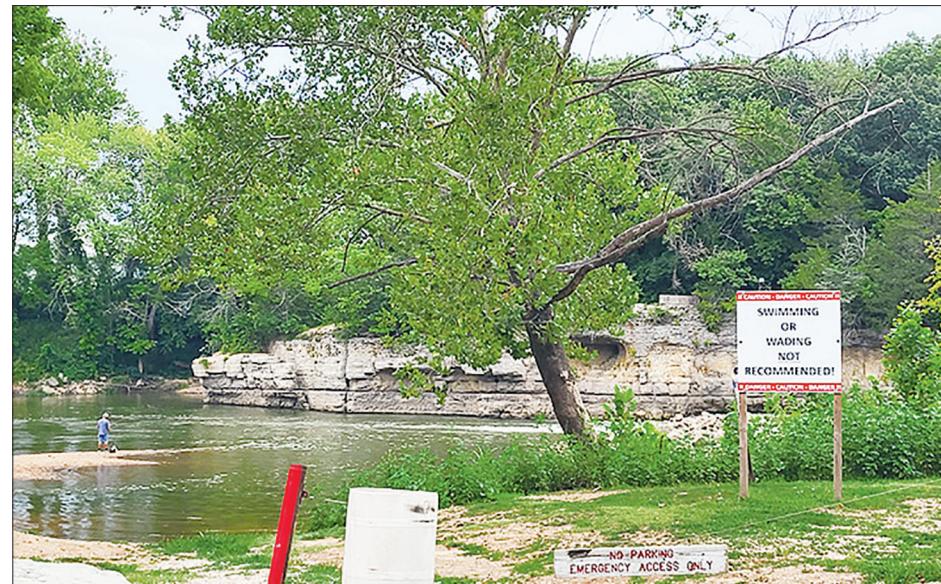
High Ridge Fire used three boats and a drone to search along the river and shoreline for the missing person. The victim was found about an hour later, according to the statement.

In addition to High Ridge Fire, the Cedar Hill, Eureka and Fenton fire protection districts, the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Water Patrol Division, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and the Big River Ambulance District helped at the scene, the report said.

Barton said Eureka Fire deployed a boat downriver in case the man floated downstream, and Cedar Hill Fire put a boat in the water as a safety precaution, in case first responders needed immediate assistance.

High Ridge Fire used its boat for sonar imaging after using a drone that failed to turn up the victim.

"We put our drone in the air and boat in the water to do a quick search of the area," Barton said. "We weren't able to



Signs posted at Rockford Beach by the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation warn that swimming and wading are "not recommended."

locate him, and that's when we put our sonar system to use, which gives us visibility under the water."

He said the man was found about 40 to 50 feet from the shore.

Barton said a Sheriff's Office deputy stationed at the front of the park helped close it down and escorted people out of the park.

Rockford Beach remained closed for the rest of Aug. 12.

Tim Pigg, director for the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation, said the park reopened about mid-morning the next day. The park's operations continued normally on Monday, Aug. 14.

He said the Parks and Recreation Department has no plans to temporarily shut down the park, where signs are posted recommending that people don't swim at Rockford Beach.

"This is a personal choice for people to get into the water," Pigg said. "This is still the United States of America. We still have freedoms."

It was the second drowning on the Big River near Rockford Beach this summer.

Hamsa Mohamed, 41, of St. Louis jumped into the river from a bluff on July 2 and disappeared under the water. His body was found the next day.

"He was found in the same area of the river as the victim we had in July," Barton said. "It's an area of strong currents, a circular current. People get pulled into the current and it turns them around, drags them back under. The current sort of dives down and pulls them back up."

After the July 2 drowning, the park was shut down for four days as the Parks and Recreation Department and Sheriff's Office decided how to best control the large number of people using the park on weekends. Grant Bissell, a Sheriff's Office spokesman, said a deputy is posted at the entrance of the park from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. during weekends to limit the traffic inside the park.

"(The Jefferson County Council) are the ones who (could decide) to close it permanently," Pigg said.

He said the Parks and Recreation

Department can only close the park temporarily.

"It's a powerful river. It deserves everybody's absolute respect," Pigg said. "We don't recommend swimming or wading in it, but people make their own choices, unfortunately."

According to the county Parks and Recreation website, the Big River is a swift-moving stream and is not recommended for swimming or wading.

"The (deputy's) presence didn't dissuade the person from getting in the water," Pigg said. "Even if we shut down the park, people will find a way to get in the water."



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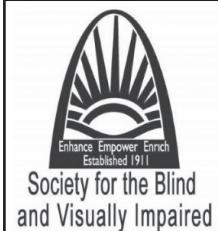
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PREVIEW SECTION

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The Leader is working with the Twin City Area Chamber of Commerce to produce the official Twin City Days Preview Special.

This special section will feature stories on events, participants and entertainment, as well as a full schedule of the three-day festival.

Checking in

Congressman's Farm Tour includes stop in Kimmswick

By Tony Krausz
For the Leader

U.S. Rep. Jason Smith (R-Salem) met with Jefferson County Port Authority members, business owners, agriculture groups and local leaders at the LaChance Winery in Kimmswick on Aug. 10.

It was the second stop on his annual Farm Tour throughout Missouri's 8th Congressional District, which was redrawn in 2022 and now stretches from Arnold south along the Mississippi River to the Bootheel and then west across the state almost to Branson and north to Rolla. It is the largest congressional district in Missouri.

Smith spoke with about 25 people during the trade-focused roundtable in Kimmswick, covering topics like the planned container-on-vessel port in Herculaneum; the upcoming widening of I-55 to three lanes in both directions between Hwy. Z in Pevely and the Hwy. 67 interchange south of Festus; and the planned resurfacing of 14.91 miles of Hwy. 21 from Hwy. B in Hillsboro to the Washington County line and of Hwy. N (Rock Road) from Hwy. 21 to Donnelly Street in De Soto.

"It is so important to travel around our 28 counties so you can hear directly from people about issues they may have with the federal government," said Smith, whose tour started on Aug. 10 with a stop at the Veterinary Clinic of the Mineral Area in Farmington. "Also, a lot of items are issues with the state government. I was glad to have state lawmakers here, so they can hear of it. You have to work hand in glove with the state lawmakers. An example is highway funding and port funding."

"We made Jefferson County on our first day (of the tour)," said Smith, 42. "I think it is important that people see Jefferson County is a priority to me."

Smith, who is the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, spoke mainly about how the U.S. trades its agricultural products throughout the world. He said the Herculaneum port, which is

expected to be completed by December 2025, will be a boon for the county.

"This could be such an economic driver for our region to have these shipping vessels be able to take our goods, agriculture products and minerals to other parts of the world, using technology that hasn't always been available," he said.



Tony Krausz photos

U.S. Rep. Jason Smith (R-Salem), left, and Jefferson County Port Authority executive director Jim McNichol held a trade-focused roundtable with Port Authority members, business owners, agriculture groups and local leaders on Aug. 10 at the LaChance Winery in Kimmswick.

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About 25 people attended the event.

Rejected

Voters give thumbs-down to Fox C-6 tax levy increase

By Tony Krausz
For the Leader

Fox C-6 School District voters overwhelmingly rejected a proposed tax levy increase of 92.07 cents per \$100 assessed valuation on Aug. 8.

According to unofficial results, the tax increase failed by 6,025 no votes (65.99 percent) to 3,105 yes votes (34.01 percent).

The ballot measure, called Proposition I (invest in our students, our school and our community), required a simple majority to pass.

Just 18.2 percent of registered Fox district voters turned out for the special election, which had just one measure on the ballot.

"I am disappointed and saddened that Prop I did not pass," Board of Education president April Moeckel said.

Fox has not had a tax levy increase since 2004 when voters approved an additional \$1.2207 per \$100 assessed valuation.

"When you haven't put something on the ballot for 19 years, it is kind of difficult to determine how it will turn out," Superintendent Paul Fregeau said of the overwhelming defeat. "I really had no inkling or sense of where it would be."

The failure of the tax levy increase means Fox's overall tax levy will remain at \$4.2617 per \$100 assessed valuation. If the increase had been approved, it would have boosted the district's operating levy, but that will remain at \$3.8716 per \$100 assessed valuation. The district's debt service levy is 39.01 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Fregeau said the tax increase would have generated up to \$12 million more in revenue each year.

Moeckel said Fox eventually will have to pass a tax levy increase to continue to operate, but she said she didn't know when the board will consider placing another issue on the ballot.

"At this time, I cannot say when the board will ask," she said. "We need to discuss what went well and what went wrong and how to do better."

Going forward

Because the tax increase did not pass and the Fox district is expected to receive at least \$5 million less in state funding for the 2024-2025 school year, Fregeau said the district may have to reduce staff after the end of the current school year, which began July 1. The district also may need to cut academic and athletic programs.

However, Fregeau said district officials have not yet determined if they will reduce its teaching staff and if so, by how much, and they have made no decisions about cutting academic programs or extracurricular activities.

"We haven't begun to go down that road yet," he said. "We will start the analysis after school starts and we get kids in classrooms. We will do a cost analysis of all

"I do not look forward to additional future cuts that have to be made to have a balanced budget. We have been told that academic programs, sports programs, supplies, technology and larger class sizes are all on the table."



April Moeckel
Board of Education president

of our programs and make some informed decisions."

In the meantime, the district will operate as usual, Fregeau said.

"I talked to the leadership team and said, 'Let's do what we do. Let's be us, get school started and love on our kids, staff and families,'" he said.

Fox students' first day of class is Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Before asking voters for the tax levy increase, Fox reduced its spending for the 2023-2024 school year by eliminating 27 teaching positions and two administrative positions through attrition to save about \$2.4 million in salary and benefit costs for this school year. It also reduced the budget for all of its school buildings by a total of \$250,000 and delayed spending \$500,000 on new Chromebooks for this school year.

In addition, the district also is expected to increase its operating budget by \$1.5 million when it asks the board to shift 15 cents from its capital improvement levy to its operating funds.

"I do not look forward to additional future cuts that have to be made to have a balanced budget," Moeckel said. "We have been told that academic programs, sports programs, supplies, technology and larger class sizes are all on the table."

Outlook

Fregeau said the Board of Education was expected to review the district's outlook at its meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 15, after the *Leader's* deadline.

Fox hired Cordogan Clark and Associates in St. Louis in August 2022 to create a facility master plan and study the district's projected demographics. The district paid the company \$94,000 for the service, according to board documents.

"The facility analysis and demographic information will be presented to the board on (Aug. 15)," Fregeau said. "They will go through each building and tell us what the capacity is, what their future capacity will be based on and provide a facility condition indicator to tell us how much of an investment we will have to make in each building moving forward to keep it useful for kids."

Fregeau said no budget adjustments are expected this school year that will affect the district's staffing or academic and

through sixth grade; and 25 to 33 students from seventh grade through 12th grade.

Fregeau said he didn't know if class sizes will increase for the 2024-2025 school year, and he also said he could not say if the district would need to consider closing school buildings before the next school year.

"It will take more in-depth analysis of demographic projections and staffing needs as we move into next year and beyond," he said. "We haven't gotten to delve into any details on it. We have just been given a preview. We will get our hands on the documents after (Aug. 15). It is a very thick book. They have gone in and done an analysis of all of the plumbing, electric, roofs, HVAC and the site itself. There is a lot to look at."

Despite the failed tax increase, Fregeau and Moeckel said the district will continue to provide the best education experience it can.

"As always, the teachers, administration and classified staff will continue to put the students first and do the best they can with what they have to provide the best education possible," Moeckel said. "I am looking forward to an amazing 2023-2024 school year, and I personally thank everyone for their hard work that they put in for every student, every day, whatever it takes."



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OPINIONS



**Katelyn
Mary
Skaggs**

Toss outdated wedding traditions, not the garter

I already have three “save the dates” clipped to my fridge for weddings that will occur in 2024.

I am at an age where many of my friends are getting hitched, so I attend a lot of weddings. I generally enjoy the celebratory events – except for a few cringe-worthy traditions.

Some traditions are a good thing and have great meaning, but others, like the cake smash or garter toss, need to end.

Just because you witnessed a tradition growing up or someone else did it does not mean it's mandatory that you have to include it in your celebration.

The first tradition I wish would end is the garter toss. It makes my skin crawl.

Let's all watch the groom climb under his bride's dress in front of all their family and friends. You can witness the bride's family as they stand in a corner and wince, while the groom's buddies whoop and holler.

Most of us know what happens on a wedding night and none of us need the pre-show.

I understand it is meant to be a light-hearted way to show off a couple's excitement for each other, but since they just got married, we can all assume they like one another, or at least we hope they do.

While discussing a friend's recent nuptials, she mentioned how uncomfortable she was during the garter toss. I asked her why she even went through with the tradition and she replied that because it seems to be done at every wedding, she followed suit without much thought about it.

This is the problem with many traditions. If the tradition means nothing to you, you are not compelled to include it in your big day.

Letters

Tell your senators to require integrity at Supreme Court

To the editor:

Our own U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley and the nine other Republicans who serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee voted no on a bill that would create a code of conduct for members of the U.S. Supreme Court and its staff.

This bill would require disclosure of gifts, travel or any other outside income the justices receive. All 11 Democratic committee members voted yes. This bill, having



Your wedding should be about you and your intended, not maintaining the status quo of traditions and trends.

I also strongly dislike the bouquet toss. When the DJ starts to play “Single Ladies,” that is my cue to take a bathroom break. I avoid this tradition at all costs.

This tradition is less cringe-worthy, but it forces the idea that marriage is some great accomplishment women should fight each other to achieve.

Being single is OK and being in a long-term relationship without being married is OK. There's no need to fight to see who should walk down an aisle next.

The worst wedding tradition is the cake smash.

I absolutely hate watching couples smash cake into each other's faces. It leaves me wondering if they even love each other at all.

Most cake smashing seems to come from a place of disdain. Sure, it can seem funny and fun but when you have paid someone to do your makeup and wear a

dress that can cost four figures, there is nothing funny about it.

I have witnessed several cake smashes when I thought by the forceful way that the couples smashed the cake into each other's faces, I was left with the feeling that I was not so sure they love each other. Most of the couples which I have had that thought about have been divorced within three years.

Now, I think cutting the cake together, putting a small piece on a fork, and gently feeding each other can be nice, however, there is nothing nice about smashing it into someone's face.

There are some traditions I like and will include on my big day someday, like the exchange of vows and someone meaningful walking you down the aisle.

Recently I have noticed a new wedding tradition to have guests take photos for their entry into the guest book instead of simply writing their name. I enjoy that one.

Weddings are fun events and I always have a blast attending them, and at the end of the day the celebration is about the newlywed couple and not the guests.

Whenever you plan your big day, plan traditions that make you feel comfortable and not because it's something your parents and grandparents did.

passed out of committee, is now awaiting a full Senate vote.

There really is an ethics problem at our Supreme Court. Recent revelations about six billionaires who have “lubricated” certain justices who did not recuse themselves when it came time to rule on cases involving the billionaires' interests are too blatant to be ignored.

Please notify Hawley and our other senator, Eric Schmitt, that they need to vote for the passage of S. 359. This would help restore a bit of faith in the integrity of the highest court in our land.

**Linda Lyons
De Soto**

Letter policy

Letters must include the writer's name, street address and telephone number; letters missing those elements will not be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for length, clarity and legal concerns and should be 300 words or fewer. Letters from announced candidates will not be printed prior to their Election Day. Letters advocating political candidates or issues will not be printed in the issue before an election.

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Letters

How can people still support Trump?**To the editor:**

It amazes me that a twice-impeached, thrice-indicted former president, found culpable by a civil jury of sexual abuse, remains so popular with the GOP.

Many of those still supporting Donald Trump for president say they do so because of his policies. Whenever I hear that, I want to ask them, "Which policies are you referring to?"

Trump has encouraged his followers to act violently against anyone who does not look or think like them. There have been threats to judges, attorneys and anyone else who wants to hold Trump accountable.

Trump has promised that if he is re-elected president, he will pardon the thugs who attacked Congress, which led to six deaths and more than 140 injuries to Capitol Police.

Trump sat in his dining room and watched the violence on TV. He did nothing to stop the deadly assault. In fact, on Jan. 6, he told the Secret Service to allow his supporters to carry their guns to the Capitol. He is quoted as saying, "They aren't here to hurt me."

As president, he pardoned a long list of those found guilty of various crimes. One of the first bills he signed as president rescinded an Obama-era rule that blocked gun sales to the mentally ill.

Trump is now indicted for allegedly hiding scores of top-secret documents at his beach resort, putting our national security in danger. He has said he could do anything he wanted with them. He has been indicted in New York on 34 felony counts and may soon to be indicted in Georgia for attempting to overturn the 2020 election. After that, he could be indicted for inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection.

So, what policies do his supporters like? Alleged criminal behavior, racism, violence, tax breaks for the wealthy, cruelty or permission to be their worst selves?

Dianne Hayward
Eureka

Lose the hyphens**To the editor:**

All four of my grandparents were German immigrants. Am I a German-American?

I was raised in south St. Louis and about half of my class at Southwest High School were Italians from "the Hill." Were they Italian-Americans? And are they now still known as Italian-Americans?

This constant designation of minorities as African-Americans or Hispanic-Americans is contributing to the social degradation and moral spirit of this country. It should stop.

We are all Americans. Get it?

Ralph Meuser
Dittmer

Believe it: U.S. economy is doing well**To the editor:**

"It's the economy, stupid."

This famous quote is attributed to political consultant James Carville, the Ragin' Cajun.

America's COVID-19 recovery has been the fastest of all the advanced G7 nations, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Joe Biden's Infrastructure and Jobs Act, along with his Inflation Reduction Act, have worked. The Federal Reserve is no longer predicting a U.S. recession.

Wall Street and Republican legislators falsely claimed that "Bidenomics" would plunge America into recession. It did just the opposite and brought America out of the pandemic, stronger than ever.

As a result, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said he's "holding out hope the economy can achieve a 'soft landing,' a scenario in which inflation falls, unemployment remains relatively low and a recession is avoided."

Democrats believe the economy grows when Middle America grows. Democratic legislators enact laws that help hard-working families, not tax breaks for corporations and the rich.

In contrast, Republicans believe in President Ronald Reagan's trickle-down theory. They enact corporate tax cuts, with the ruse that profits will be shared with workers.

Historical wage gap figures provide the truth. In 1965, the CEO-to-worker compensation ratio was 21-to-1. In 2020, the ratio was 351-to-1. It's clear that profits stay at the top.

If you need a reason to re-elect President Joe Biden, look no further than "Bidenomics" and America's lead in economic recovery.

Barbara Marco
De Soto

Hooray for Smith**To the editor:**

I propose two more toasts to Jack Smith, the Department of Justice's special counsel, for doing his job and doing it well.

For the first, the previous occupant of the White House is accused of ordering his maintenance worker to have security videos deleted after the Justice Department subpoenaed them.

For the other, read the latest indictment of that previous occupant. He is accused of taking part in a failed attempt to overturn our government because he refused to accept that he lost the 2020 election. There are six alleged co-conspirators who are not named in the indictment.

Susan LaBarge
House Springs

If losing isn't an option, so long, democracy**To the editor:**

As the 2024 presidential primary cycle edges closer, political analysts claim Republicans hate Democrat President Joe Biden so much there is no way they will vote for him.

No surprise, yet Biden has overseen robust economic recovery with legislative successes of social, economic, environmental, public health and international security importance. NATO is once again a strong alliance and inflation is coming down.

But there also are plenty of Democrats who never vote for Republicans. In 1972 I voted for Republican Richard Nixon, my family's leaning, which proved a poor choice. Every year since, I have paid significant attention to the governing actions of local, state and federal elected offices and studied politics and history. I've defined principles for my electoral choices forming strong liberal sentiments and positions.

In the 1970s, there were liberal Republicans as well as Democrats. For elections since 1974, I looked for candidates of liberal politics, and in 1976 I voted for Republican Charles Mathias for Maryland senator, and moderate Democrat Jimmy Carter for president.

The number of liberal Republicans has declined since the 1980s, as pressured by President Ronald Reagan and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. They classified Republicans as "states' rights" conservatives with no room for compromise with even moderate Democrats.

Through my years of voting, most of my preferred liberal candidates didn't even make it to the ballot. However, I voted, accepted the result and continued to pay attention to public discourse. I believe most voters did the same.

Then, first in 2016 and again in 2020, Donald Trump took the position of accepting the election outcome only if he won. That is not democracy; it's authoritarianism.

Thomas Sullivan
Barnhart

Not a fan of the chip-and-seal roads**To the editor:**

I am not a fan of the chip-and-seal method to upgrade roads.

While this process provides a good surface eventually, it's also a pain in the backside immediately after application, and for many days after.

The loose surface is a skid hazard for cars and especially death-defying for those of us who commute on motorcycles.

Why can't the excess rock be swept off to the sides of the roads seven to 10 days after it is laid?

Dennis Eaton
Imperial

Women can be 'helpmates, co-workers,' but stop there, please**To the editor:**

In response to a recent letter by Robert Manager, there is a manual of exquisite detail for the inspirations and practices of Christian worship called the Holy Bible.

Since we want to worship in "spirit and truth," we should go to church, where the only rules for faith and practice are in the scriptures. We have learned the lessons of a thousand years of schisms: In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty, and in all things love.

The Christian is free indeed, but not all things are expedient for doing what is right by God. Yes, men and women are all created equal. That is not a license for murder, nor does it define roles and responsibilities in the church of Christ. The Bible does that.

Men only are called to oversight and preaching. Many gracious Christian women are essential and powerful helpmates, or co-workers in that mission.

The science reveals that God made humankind male and female, and they fit together exclusively for health and life. To propose any other paradigm is not only unscientific, but open rebellion to God. Tolerance of sin is not an attribute of the Christian church. Impurity has no place in the house of God except repentance.

One Christ, and worship that loves God and neighbor, worships best and eternally by obeying God's word, and by being frank with one's neighbors. You can wholly trust such a Christian church.

Edward B. Graham
De Soto

Climate should be top priority for both parties**To the editor:**

Our earth is burning up. We have frequent floods, wildfires, drought and tornadoes, to name a few.

As President Joe Biden and the Democrats rush to work with scientists, help out at-risk cities, try to reduce greenhouse gases and work to save as many lives as possible, Republicans are creating fake crises about drag queens and hidden woke messages in the "Barbie" movie.

Are you kidding me? When will MAGAs ever understand how dangerous Donald Trump and his cronies are?

Trump has stated his goals if re-elected. He wants to seek revenge, rule like a dictator, continue fighting about the 2020 election and drill, baby, drill – putting more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to kill us all.

Cathey Michalski
Imperial

Marshalls store coming to Twin City Plaza



Kevin Carbery photo

Work is underway on the new Marshalls store in the Twin City Plaza in Crystal City.

A Marshalls store is coming to the Twin City Plaza in Crystal City.

"We anticipate that the new Marshalls store in Crystal City will open this fall," said Cassidy Kelly, marketing supervisor for TJX/Marshalls.

Laura Jones of R.L. Jones Properties, which owns the shopping center property, said her company is renovating 25,000 square feet of space at 143 Twin City Plaza for the Marshalls store.

"We are delivering it to them in September," Jones said.

"We're excited to have them and to get them open."

Marshalls, a department store chain under the umbrella of TJX Companies Inc., is "the leading off-price retailer of



apparel and home fashions in the U.S. and worldwide," according to the TJX website.

--Kevin Carbery

Pevely officials approve permit for new sports bar

By Kevin Carbery
For the Leader

Two couples working to open a bar in Pevely moved one step closer toward their goal when the city's Board of Aldermen recently approved a special-use permit for the business.

Jamie and Tina Portell, who attended the meeting, and another couple, Tom and Tracie Moore, all of St. Louis County, plan to operate the Moortell Sports Pub at 120 Main St. in the building that used to house the Main St. Pub.

"We hope to open in October," James Portell said.

The pub's name comes from combining the owners' last names, he said.

The establishment will be a sports bar.

"We'll have a bunch of TVs and games," Portell said.

He said the bar also will sell a limited amount of food.

"It does not have a kitchen. We'll have a pizza oven and, probably, some other snacks."

Pevely Ward 1 Alderman Steve Markus, who presided over the meeting as mayor pro tem in the absence of Mayor Stephanie Haas, said he was happy to see someone plans to use the building.

Neither he nor any of the other city officials at the meeting were sure when the last bar housed in the building closed, but estimated it was at least a couple of years ago.

"I'm glad it's reopening, not just sitting there unused," Markus said.

The board voted 7-0 Aug. 7 to approve the special-use permit for the bar. It was the board's first meeting since Ward 1 Alderman Larry Coulson told city officials he was leaving the board and he did not attend.

As of the meeting, however, Coulson had not submitted a letter of resignation.



Kevin Carbery photo

A new sports bar will open this fall at the former Main Street Pub in Pevely.



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Little Lights Learning Center to open soon

By Kevin Carbery
For the Leader

The Lighthouse Church in Festus plans to open a day care and preschool next month.

The Little Lights Learning Center, which would be housed in the church, 1540 W. Main Street, will fill a need in the community, said Kim Piet, the day care's administrator and wife of Lighthouse Church Pastor John Piet.

"That's what we've been told," Kim Piet said. "We visited other day cares who encouraged us to open and are sending us referrals."

She said the facility is expected to open in mid-September.

The pastor said Little Lights will provide religious-based day care.

"We lived in the Philippines as missionaries for nine years and started an orphanage, Safe Harbor International Philippines," he said. "We used the acronym SHIP. The Lord did it. The Lord opened our eyes to the need."

"When we came here, we had no idea of opening a day care. About three years ago, (God) put it in my mind. I approached the body of the church and they

prayed with me and we decided to do this."

Kim Piet said Little Lights will accommodate several dozen students ages 2 to 12 and will add more when additional staff is hired.

"We'll probably go with 49 to start with," she said. "We'll be license exempt (as a religious institution) but still must meet a lot of health and sanitation requirements. For safety, all our employees will be background-checked."

Piet said Little Lights will begin with eight employees, including five teachers and three in administration.

"There will be a full preschool curriculum for ages up to 5," she said.

Beverly Bean, the Little Lights director, said any child is welcome to enroll in the day care or preschool, but stressed it is religion-based.

"I've been a private school educator for 33 years," Bean said. "I've been in the



From left, Beverly Bean, Little Lights Learning Center director, and Kim Piet, the day care's administrator.

mission field, as well. I was focused in Niger as an elementary principal.

"We're open to anyone, but we're going to share God's love with them."

Little Light's hours of operation will be 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

For more information, visit the Little Lights Learning Center (Festus) Facebook page or call 636-543-3068.

De Soto woman opens daytrip tour business

By Teresa Inserra
For the Leader

When Connie Bryant chaperoned a weekend marching band trip in Memphis this spring, it changed her career path.

Bryant, 52, of De Soto said she had been an in-home child care provider for 30 years and enjoyed it. But when she watched the marching band group's tour guide in action, helping others make lasting memories and creating adventures for them, Bryant knew that was what she wanted to do.

"I told (the tour guide) I wanted her job," Bryant said. "The job just looked really neat. I was totally intrigued."

When Bryant returned from Memphis, she looked into tour guide job opportunities in the area. After some thought, she decided to open her own tour guide business, based in De Soto, for day trips. Her husband, Brad, who has a full-time job elsewhere, co-owns the business with her.

When choosing the name for the business, Bryant said she thought about her widowed mother who would enjoy getting out with other people and chose the name, Out & About Tours.

"I could provide trips for people like her," Bryant said.

She said the business also arranges tours for couples who don't want to mess with the hassle of fighting traffic or driving at night.

The tours also are great for those who want to hang out with friends or make new friends, Bryant said.

For the tours, Bryant arranges for a bus or passenger van through Huskey to pick up people behind the De Soto Community Center and transport them to the



Connie Bryant
various venues.

Bryant's first guided day trip was to the horse races at Fairmount Park in Collinsville, Ill., on Aug. 5, and 27 people took part.

She said she was pleased with the trip.

"It was great listening to them talk and make friends," she said. "It was a fun atmosphere and a fun night."

Bryant said planning and guiding the tours are fun and don't seem like work.

"I'm having a great time," she said.

The next two tours are already booked.

Up next will be "A Night at the Muny." The group will see "Sister Act" after they take a backstage tour, eat a charcuterie-style dinner and listen to live entertainment. The other booked tour is a trip to the Amish community in Arthur, Ill., which will include shopping and eating a home-cooked meal at an Amish home.

Bryant has come up with a few more ideas and people have made requests. Possible tour destinations include wine country, a casino or a dinner cruise in St. Louis.

"There are so many places to go," she said. "I keep asking for suggestions."

For more information about the

business, visit its website at outandabouttours.llc or its Facebook page or call 636-535-7775.

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Calendar

Thursday, Aug. 17

- **Pevely Days**, 5-10 p.m. Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, mainly in Pevely Park, 48 Main St., with some events on Pevely Main Street. Carnival rides and games, live entertainment, petting zoo, pony rides, car show. Information: City of Pevely page on Facebook.
- **Program on Alzheimer's and dementia**, 6 p.m., Northwest Branch of the Jefferson County Library, 5680 Hwy. PP, High Ridge. Free.
- **Senior lunch**, noon, first and third Thursdays, Timbers of Eureka Recreation Center, 1 Coffey Park Lane. Friendship Day social. Cost: \$6 members; \$7 residents; \$8 for others. Reservations: Ann, 636-938-6775.
- **Bingo**, 10:30 a.m., Arnold Eagles, 1725 Jeffco Blvd. Doors open 8 a.m. Call 636-282-0415.
- **Fenton Community and Farmers Market**, 4-8 p.m., 995 Larkin Williams Road. Info: 636-349-8155 or farmersmarket@fentonmo.org.
- **Bingo**, 6:30 p.m., High Ridge Elks, 2808 Old Hunning Road. Doors open 4 p.m. Call 636-677-3557.
- **House Springs Senior Center**, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. games Thursdays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. card club with free games of canasta, Thursdays and Tuesdays, 11:45 a.m. lunch Thursdays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (\$5 members; \$10 guests), 6180 Hwy. MM. Reservations: 636-677-4578. Information on card club: Call 636-535-9559.
- **Dominoes**, 10 a.m. to noon, De Soto Senior Center, 221 S. Third St. Call 636-337-7578.
- **Preschool storytime**, 10:30 a.m., Festus Public Library, 400 W. Main St. For ages 2-6. Call 636-937-2017.
- **Gardening Club**, 1-3 p.m., Festus Public Library, 400 W. Main St. Families with children welcome.
- **Pay It Forward Baby Ministry**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., De Soto Community Center, 400 Boyd St. Free diapers, clothes, supplies for any child in need. Donations welcome. Call Leisa, 314-607-9246.
- **English as second language class**, 7-8:30 p.m., Spring Hills Presbyterian Church, 6247 Upper Byrnes Mill Drive, House Springs. For all skill levels. Free child care for fifth-graders and younger. Call Junia Haas, 636-677-0409.

Friday, Aug. 18

- **Fried chicken dinner**, 3-7 p.m., Rock Memorial American Legion, 910 Montebello Road, Imperial. Dinners with sides, dessert. Dine in or take out. Call 636-464-2599.
- **Eureka Block Party**, 6-10 p.m., 394 S. Central Ave. Food and drinks sold, yard games.
- **Fish fry**, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Festus American Legion, 849 American Legion Drive. Catfish, shrimp plates with three sides: \$13; cod plates \$15. Dine in or carry out.

- **Chicken and dumpling dinner**, 5 p.m., CIA, 13568 Hwy. JJ, De Soto. Doors open 4 p.m.
- **Rummage sale**, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, De Soto Amvets, 1075 Amvets Drive at Hwy. 21. Sponsor: Auxiliary for Field of Glory program and Special Olympics.
- **Bingo**, 10-11 a.m., De Soto Senior Center, 221 S. Third St. Call 636-337-7578.
- **Games**, 9:30 a.m. pinochle, 12:30 p.m. bunco, House Springs Senior Center, 6180 Hwy. MM. Reservations: 636-677-4578.

Saturday, Aug. 19

- **Farmers market and flea market**, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Peace Pantry, 8100 S. Industrial Drive, Cedar Hill.
- **Flea market and barbecue**, flea market open 7 a.m. to noon, barbecue starts at noon, De Soto Amvets, 1075 Amvets Drive at Hwy. 21. Vendor spaces: 636-586-8859. Barbecue by Sons of the Amvets include pork steaks and sides until sold out.
- **Solar Saturday**, 2-8 p.m., Washington State Park, 13041 Hwy. 104 off Hwy. 21, south of De Soto. Petroglyph tour 2 p.m., program and crafts on moon phases, 4 p.m., program on sun's importance to Earth 7 p.m. Call 636-586-5768.
- **Barbecue**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Buchheit, 200 Riverview Plaza Drive, Herculaneum. Pork steaks, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, bratwurst, hot dogs. Water, soda also sold. Sponsor: American Legion 40/8. Supports nurses' training, American Legion Boys State, child welfare.
- **Food drive**, noon to 1 p.m., Rock Presbyterian Church, 6439 Hwy. 61-67, Imperial. Each child who donates food item receives a free kiddie shaved ice. Benefits church food pantry.
- **Jefferson County Genealogical Society**, 9:30 a.m. third Saturdays, Northwest Branch of the Jefferson County Library, 5680 Hwy. PP, High Ridge. Info: jcgsmo.org.
- **Arnold Farmers Market**, 8 a.m. to noon, Arnold City Park, 2400 Bradley Beach Road.
- **Cedar Hill Farmers and Vendors Market**, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Big River VFW, 1 Lynn Lane.
- **De Soto Farmers Market**, 8 a.m. to noon, 520 N. Main St.
- **Ozark Food Pantry**, 8:30-10:45 a.m., No. 1 Sunset Park, Festus. Call 636-933-9974.
- **Bingo**, 5:45 p.m., Fenton American Legion, 2 Gravois Road. Kitchen serves at 4 p.m., special bingo at 5:45 p.m., regular bingo at 6:15 p.m. No checks or outside food, drinks.

Sunday, Aug. 20

- **Back-to-school foam party**, 2-4 p.m., Arnold Church of the Nazarene, 3651 Telegraph Road. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, snow cones. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For help with school supplies, call 636-464-1006.

- **Crystal City Farmers Market**, 1-5 p.m., Grace Presbyterian Church, 105 Bailey Road.
- **Bingo**, 5 p.m., Meramec Arnold Elks, 1515 Miller Road, Imperial. No smoking. Call 636-464-8960.
- **Meat shoot**, 11:30 a.m., Meramec Arnold Elks, 1515 Miller Road, Imperial. Doors open 10 a.m., practice begins 11 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 21

- **Adult sci-fi book club**, 5 p.m., Northwest Branch of the Jefferson County Library, 5680 Hwy. PP in High Ridge. Free. Call 636-677-8186 or visit jeffcolib.org.
- **Jefferson County Republican Club**, 7-8:30 p.m., Wesley Rogers Steakhouse and Buffet, 3601 Jeffco Blvd. Arnold. Call 314-825-0944 or email jeffcogopclub@gmail.com.
- **Bingo**, 6:30 p.m., Arnold Eagles, 1725 Jeffco Blvd. Doors open 3 p.m. Call 636-282-0415.
- **Preschool story hour**, 10:30 a.m., De Soto Public Library, 712 S. Main St. Call 636-586-3858.
- **Cards and dominoes**, 10 a.m. to noon Mondays and Wednesdays, De Soto Senior Center, 221 S. Third St. Call 636-337-7578.
- **Games**, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., House Springs Senior Center, 6180 Hwy. MM. Reservations: 636-677-4578.
- **Story time**, 10 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, Windsor Branch of the Jefferson County Library, 7479 Metropolitan Blvd., Barnhart. Call 636-461-1914.

Tuesday, Aug. 22

- **Square dancing and lessons**, 6:15-8 p.m., Herculaneum United Methodist Church, 672 Main St. Sponsor: Jefferson County Squares. First two lessons free; \$5 per night after. Call 636-579-1119.
- **Herculaneum Farmers Market**, 3-6 p.m., Herculaneum City Park, 776 Joachim Ave.
- **Bingo**, 6:15 p.m., Meramec Arnold Elks, 1515 Miller Road, Imperial. No smoking. Call 636-464-8960.
- **Exercise**, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Quad Cities Senior Center, 221 Bailey Road, Crystal City. Call 636-937-8333.
- **Food pantry**, 8:30-11:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 113 Grand Ave., Festus. For residents of 63028, 63019, 63048 and 63070 ZIP codes. Call 636-937-6205.
- **Line dancing lessons**, 7-9:30 p.m., High Ridge Elks, 2808 Old Hunning Road. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$5. Soda and water available; dancers can bring snacks. Call 314-609-8610.

Wednesday, Aug. 23

- **Arnold Senior Expo**, 8 a.m. to noon, Arnold Eagles, 1725 Jeffco Blvd. Prizes, giveaways, bingo, guest speakers, food, live music. Sponsor: Leader Publications.

- **Birdhouse workshop**, 6 p.m., Mastodon State Historic Site, 1800 Seckman Road, Imperial. Create your own birdhouse. To register: 636-464-2976.
- **Bunco**, 7 p.m., De Soto Amvets, 1075 Amvets Drive at Hwy. 21. Doors open 6 p.m. Maximum four per table. Admission: \$10; benefits Ladies Auxiliary hospital programs. Call 314-401-7781.
- **Chess club**, 3-5 p.m., Timbers of Eureka, 1 Coffey Park Lane. Experienced players only. Bring game if possible. Call 636-938-6775 or email eurekayank@gmail.com.
- **Houseplant repotting**, 6-7:30 p.m., Kircher Park, 25 Williams Road. \$5 for registered participants, \$7 for nonregistered. Register at the Timbers of Eureka or at eureka.mo.us.
- **Country-western dance**, 7 p.m., Arnold VFW, 2301 Church Road. Sponsor: Midwest Club Dance. Call 314-972-4094.
- **Hillsboro Farmers Market**, 3:30-6 p.m., Bridle Ridge Acres, 200 Bridle Ridge Lane.
- **Bingo**, 6 p.m., De Soto KC, 13225 Hwy. E. Doors open 4 p.m. Door prizes, two progressive games. Call 636-586-2594.
- **Therapy dog at library**, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Festus Public Library, 400 W. Main St. Children can read to therapy dog Maddie. Call 636-937-2017.

Thursday, Aug. 24

- **Shoe sale**, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, SSM Health St. Clare Hospital, 1015 Bowles Ave., Fenton. Benefits hospital projects. Sponsor: Auxiliary.
- **Line and swing dance**, lessons 6-7 p.m., dancing 7-10 p.m., Arnold VFW, 2301 Church Road. Admission: \$8. Sponsor: Jefferson County Swing Dance Club. For information, call 636-296-6702.
- **Bingo**, 10-11:30 a.m., Quad Cities Senior Center, 221 Bailey Road, Crystal City. Call 636-937-8333.
- **Ukulele Club**, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Festus Public Library, 400 W. Main St. All ages and skill levels welcome. Call 636-937-2017.
- **Toastmasters Jeffco Challengers**, 7 p.m., New Hope UMC, 3921 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold. In-person and virtual meetings by Zoom. Information: Josephineemde@yahoo.com.

Reunions

- **Athena Eighth Grade Class of 1971**, 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20, at Community Improvement Association, 13468 Hwy. JJ, De Soto. Call Donna Propst Walker, 573-944-4477, or Lonnie Price, 314-580-7503.

The Leader is pleased to run community events free of charge in the calendar. Send events to Leader Calendar, P.O. Box 159, Festus, 63028, or to news@leaderpublications.biz. Events that occur weekly are listed on a space-available basis. Only nonprofit events that are open to the public are eligible. For a complete listing, see myleaderpaper.com.

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Community notes



De Soto donates firetruck

The De Soto Fire Department donated its 1979 International reserve pumper and some equipment to the Grandin Fire Department in Carter County on June 16. The newly formed volunteer department was in need of a firetruck. De Soto Interim Fire Chief Mike Zebas, right, is pictured with Grandin Fire Chief Joe Gates, second from right, and other representatives of the Grandin Fire Department. Zebas said an equipment sales representative from Banner Fire Apparatus told the city about the small town's need for a firetruck.

Sign up for virtual leadership training class

Jefferson County residents can sign up for the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, a 10-session leadership training program focused on community building principles offered by the University of Missouri Extension.

Virtual classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, Sept. 13 through

Nov. 15, from 6-9 p.m.

Registration is \$325. To sign up, go to extension.missouri.edu and search for "Neighborhood Leadership Academy."

For information, call Misti Ritter at 636-797-5391 or send an email to rittermmm@missouri.edu.

Hope United to hold ice cream social Aug. 20

Hope United Church of Christ will hold an ice cream social in its Fellowship Hall at 100 S. Third St. in De Soto.

The event will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Aug. 20.

For more information, call 636-586-6425.



Eastern Star, Masons help lunch program

The Herculaneum chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star recently raised \$333.34 for Brenden's Friday Backpacks program. The Masonic Home Create-a-Partnership added \$666.68 to this donation, allowing the Eastern Star to present over \$1,000 to Vicki Tamboli, coordinator of Brenden's Friday Backpacks. The program provides food for children to have over the weekend when school lunches aren't available.

School notes

Roland earns doctorate in pharmacy

Jacob Roland of Park Hills recently graduated with honors with a doctorate degree in pharmacy from the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (previously the St. Louis College of Pharmacy).

A 2016 graduate of North County High School in Bonne Terre, he is the son of Clayton "Bo" Roland of Hillsboro and Suzanne Roland of Park Hills and the grandson of Shirley Phares of Desloge.

Jacob Roland
A 2016 graduate of North County High School in Bonne Terre, he is the son of Clayton "Bo" Roland of Hillsboro and Suzanne Roland of Park Hills and the grandson of Shirley Phares of Desloge.

Taylor cracks dean's list at SIUC

Cody Taylor of Festus was named to the spring semester dean's list at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Taylor, a 2018 graduate of Festus High School, compiled a perfect 4.0 grade-point average for the semester. The dean's list includes students who earn a 3.5 grade-point average or higher.

Taylor is majoring in communication design with a specialization in graphic design.

Taylor is the child of Pam and Steve Taylor of Festus.



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Chapter 5

Harry and Bess

THE FOUR-EYED BOY FROM MISSOURI

As Maddie helped with the dishes, Mom reminded them that persistence was part of being a good leader.

"He didn't give up," Scott agreed. "In 1901, after graduating from high school, Harry went to Kansas City. He studied business at a local college but dropped out after a semester. He took a job as a mailroom clerk at the Kansas City Star newspaper, then as a timekeeper at a railroad construction outfit. In early 1903, he started working at a bank.

"The same year, Bess Wallace's life suddenly changed. While away at school, her father committed suicide, leaving Bess' widowed mother in a difficult financial situation. Beth moved home to help.

"By 1905 Harry was making \$100 a month working for a Kansas City bank. That same year Harry enlisted in the Missouri National Guard and served until 1911 in the Kansas City-based Battery B, 2nd Missouri Field Artillery Regiment where he was promoted to Corporal.

"By 1906, John Truman was in more financial trouble. At age 21, Harry moved home to help. What the Trumans had left was a small family farm near Grandview. For the next eight years, Harry farmed without much success.

"In 1910, Harry volunteered to return a cake plate to the Wallace home in Independence. He and Bess renewed their friendship and soon afterward began a formal courtship. They had attended school together from 5th grade through high school. They had studied Latin together and Harry had often carried Bess' books. Bess had entertained many other suitors after graduation, but none of them suited her. Knowing she loved to play tennis, Harry built a tennis court for her although he had never played tennis.

"There were roadblocks to their love. Bess' mother disapproved of Harry. He had family obligations of his own. They spent much time apart but the couple did exchange many letters."

On Dec. 31, 1910, he was apologizing to Bess for being tied down at home:

"Nothing would please me better than to come to see you during the holidays or any other time for the matter of that, but Papa broke his



Harry Truman as a soldier circa 1917.

leg the other day and I am the chief nurse, next to my mother, besides being farm boss now ... I hope you'll let the invitation be a standing one though and I shall avail myself of it at the very first opportunity."

In 1911, in a long letter, Harry first proposed to Bess:

"Would you wear a solitaire on your left hand should I get it? Now that is a rather personal or pointed question provided you take it for all it means."

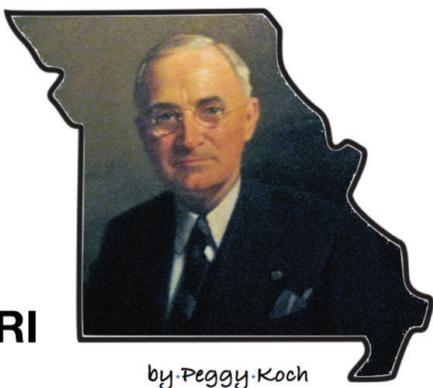
But Bess did not reply. On April 8, 1912, Harry wrote:

"Really don't care a hoot what you do with my letters so long as you write me — that's what I'm laboring for, a letter from you. You may read them to anyone you choose, put 'em under the parlor carpet, or start fires with 'em — just as long as you send me an answer."

On March 26, 1913, Harry was impatiently waiting for a photo of Bess:

"I always tell students that it is what you learn after you know it all that counts."

Harry S. Truman
33rd U.S. President



by Peggy Koch

"Have you ever had that photo made? I am very anxious for it. If you will remember, I asked for yours before you said you would accept one of mine. Please hurry it up. I want it worse than ever..."

"Harry and Bess became engaged in November of 1913, but did not announce the engagement for another four years," Scott said. "As Harry traveled, finding work in mining and petroleum exploration, the couple wrote many more letters.

"The same year, John Truman had been appointed road overseer for the southern half of Washington Township, with responsibility for upkeep and repair of county roads. While trying to repair a road, he was badly injured. In October of 1914, Harry's father died at the age of 64, leaving Harry with even more family responsibilities.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bess and Harry's relationship began long before they were married. Harry frequently recalled he had fallen in love with Bess as soon as he met her, but she was not as taken with Harry. He worked hard to court Bess for 30 years.

A collection of the letters between Harry and Bess are available at the Truman Library in Independence, Mo. Visitors are welcome.

An admission of \$12 is charged for adults, \$10 for seniors, 62 and older, \$10 for veterans and disabled, \$8 for college students, \$5 for youth 13-18.

Parking is available for free.

Harry took over as road overseer for the next six months until losing the job when a new political faction took over the county.

In a letter to Bess he wrote: "Do you... want to be a farmer? Or shall I do some other business?"

"By 1915, with the war in Europe heating up, Harry was again begging for that photo of Bess," Scott said.

"Why didn't she just send him one right away?" Maddie asked.

"In the 1900s it could take weeks, or even months for a photograph to be finished and delivered," Mom explained.



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‘Animal House’ remains his top movie about school

Filmmakers never tire of using school as the backdrop for their plots, but I have yet to watch a movie on academic life that tops “National Lampoon’s Animal House.”

The humorous motion picture about a fictional university was released in 1978, while I was in high school. “Animal House” painted a picture of college I couldn’t wait to join.

John Belushi, already a comedy star as a cast member of TV’s “Saturday Night Live,” had a major role in the film along, with Tim Matheson, Peter Riegert, Tom Hulce, Kevin Bacon and many others. The whole crew is fantastic, but Belushi steals all of his scenes.

I became adept at spouting his “Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor?” speech. Ask my family.

My friends and I saw the film repeatedly and memorized most of the lines. We’d yell them to each other walking through the halls of our high school.

With fall semester starting for many students next week, I have chosen movies about school as this week’s trivia quiz topic.

I’m not including the Harry Potter films in this column because I have referred to them and the books so much in previous columns.

For five more questions on the topic, see myleaderpaper.com.

1. In what 2003 release does Vince



Trivia Two Ways

Kevin Carbery

Vaughn’s character yell “Earmuffs!” when he wants to say something in front of his kids he does not want them to hear?

2. John Cusack and Ione Skye star as a mismatched high school couple in what 1989 flick?

3. Reese Witherspoon plays an aggressive high school student running for class president in what 1999 comedy?

4. The Marx Brothers take over Huxley University in what 1932 comedy?

5. Samuel L. Jackson plays a teacher who returns to work after recovering from being stabbed by a student in what 1997 film?

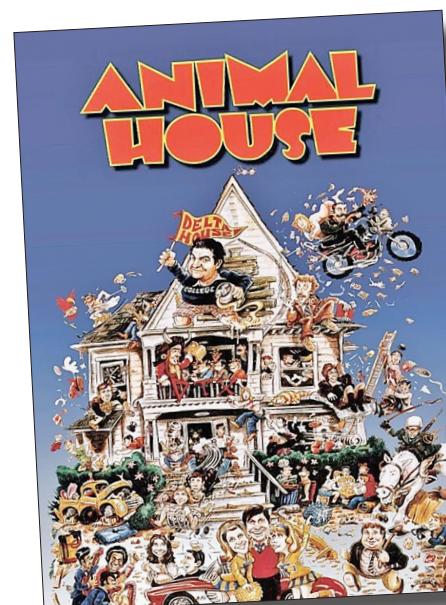
6. Who plays Spicoli in the 1982 high-school themed flick “Fast Times at Ridgemont High”?

7. What 2019 film is about two high-achieving students who seek some wild times just prior to graduating high school?

8. “Vote for Pedro” became a catch phrase after what 2004 comedy was released?

9. From the film “Grease,” what is the name of the featured high school?

10. Who won a Best Actress Os-



car for playing the title teacher in “The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie”?

ANSWERS: 1. “Old School,” a film about older guys starting their own fraternity. 2. “Say Anything.” 3. “Election,” one of my favorite flicks of the 1990s. 4. “Horsefeathers.” 5. “1 8 7.” 6. Sean Penn. This is a funny movie. 7. “Booksmart.” 8. “Napoleon Dynamite.” 9. Rydell High School. 10. Maggie Smith.

I am scheduled to host the following upcoming trivia events: Saturday, Sept. 9, Five Star Center Trivia at the Electrical Workers Hall, 5850 Elizabeth Ave., St. Louis, 314-664-2008; Nov. 4, Bilingual International Trivia at Immaculate Conception Church, 7240 Anna St. Maplewood, 314-645-7800; Nov. 11, Crossroads College Prep Trivia at the school, 5000 DeBaliviere Ave., St. Louis, 314-367-8085.

Trivia nights

STEP AHEAD ADOPTION: 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, at the Pastime Club, 5557 Hwy. 61-67, Imperial. Doors open 6 p.m. Tables of eight or less: \$80. Outside food and drinks allowed. Cash prizes for top two teams and prize to best decorated table. Raffles, 50-50 drawing. Information: Dathan Naney, 314-560-5916, or Justin Barbeau, 618-581-4640.

DE SOTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY: 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the De Soto KC, 13225 Hwy. E. Doors open 6 p.m. Admission: \$15. Tables of eight or less. Admission includes beer, soda, popcorn. Outside food allowed. Prizes, silent auction, 50-50 drawing. Benefits society’s museum. Call Don Allen, 636-262-0567.

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Florence Barbara Sacco, 82, De Soto

Florence Barbara Sacco, 82, of De Soto died Aug. 10, 2023, in De Soto. Mrs. Sacco worked for Walmart in the lawn and garden department. She was a member of the Columbia Anns in De Soto and was a foster parent for more than 20 years.

She was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in De Soto, where she was a certified parish school of religion instructor.

Born July 9, 1941, in St. Louis, she was the daughter of the late George E. and Florence B. (Dinable) Judd and the biological daughter of the late Birda M. Travis.

She is survived by her husband: Joseph Sacco of De Soto; three sons: Joseph (Kerry) Sacco of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Edward (Amanda) Sacco of De Soto and Christopher (Sarah) Sacco of Rogersville; four daughters: Angel (Lee) Kiss of Toledo, Ohio, Deborah (Robert) Roth of De Soto, Stephanie Young of De Soto and Beth (Gary) Long of O'Fallon; a sister-in-law: Rosalie (Steven) Mateja of Texas; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by two brothers: George Judd Jr. and Joseph Judd; a brother-in-law: Jules Sacco; and two sisters: Rita (Perry) Schneider and Betty (Michael) Sulya.

Funeral Mass was held Aug. 16 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in De Soto, officiated by Father Roger Fleming. Burial was in the Peaceful Ridge Cemetery in De Soto. Memorials may be made to the Adopt-an-Angel program at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Arrangements were under the direction of Mahn Funeral Home in De Soto.

Madeline Louise Fitzgerald, 84, Pevely

Madeline Louise Fitzgerald, 84, of Pevely died Aug. 11, 2023, at her home. Mrs. Fitzgerald was a member of Crosspoint Church of Festus. She enjoyed garage and yard sales, the outdoors and tending to her birds. Born July 5, 1939, in St. Louis, she was the daughter of the late Madeline (Stockamp) and John Hiatt.

She is survived by her husband: Donald Fitzgerald; a daughter: Madeline (James Sr.) Richards of St. Clair; five sons: Don (Denise) Fitzgerald of Hillsboro, Joe (Linda) Fitzgerald of Buffalo, Gary (Lisa) Fitzgerald of Labadie, Ronnie (Joann) Fitzgerald of Linn Creek and Lonnie Fitzgerald of Linn Creek; four siblings: Emma Blalack of Arnold, Genevieve Ingoldsby of Fenton, Judy Cremeens of Festus and James (Donna) Hiatt of Hillsboro; a sister-in-law: Pat Hiatt of Owensville; 13 grandchildren: Christina (Jason) Hill, Valerie and Gary Welch, Crystal and James Richards Jr., Scott (Brittni), Chuck (Allyson), Lonnie, Courtney and Joseph (Mary-Kate) Fitzgerald; Amber Hamrick, Angela (Damien) Blanchard, James Cartwright and numerous great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three siblings: Bernice (the late Paul) Day, John (the late Carmen) Hiatt Jr. and Charles Hiatt; and three brothers-in-law: Jesse Blalack, Jack Ingoldsby and Joe Cremeens.

Visitation is scheduled from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at Vinyard Funeral Home, 616 W. Main St., in Festus. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at the funeral home. Burial is in the Shepherd Hills Cemetery in Barnhart. Memorials may be made to the Living Faith Food Pantry. Arrangements are under the direction of Vinyard Funeral Home.

Donna Lee Kohl, 62, De Soto

Donna Lee Kohl, 62, of De Soto died Aug. 11, 2023, in St. Louis. Mrs. Kohl was the vice president and branch manager of Enterprise Bank in Hillsboro. She was active in the community, serving as a member of the Hillsboro Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the Hillsboro Community Civic Club and the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. Born Dec. 28, 1960, in Festus, she was the daughter of the late Harold L. and Betty J. (Richardson) Luster.

She is survived by her husband: Daniel F. Kohl of De Soto; three brothers: Larry (Kott) Luster of Vancouver, Canada, Terry (Jennifer) Luster of Lake St. Louis and David (Sharon) Luster of Pevely; two sisters: Marcia (Mike) Phares of De Soto and Karen (Greg) Carman of Frisco, Texas; six nephews: David Luster of Pevely, Will Luster of Pevely, Jack Luster of Pevely, Jemery Carmen of Texas, Stevenson Carman of Texas and Josh Phares of De Soto; four nieces: Koko Luster of Vancouver, Canada, Kate Lohmeyer of Wentzville, Karen Ann Allison of Dittmer and Rachel Roth of De Soto; and her four dogs: Bubba, Teddy, Toby and Maggie Pie. She was preceded in death by a nephew: Jake Luster.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 703 Third St., in Hillsboro, officiated by Father Boehm.

Burial will follow in the Peaceful Ridge Mausoleum in De Soto. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements are under the direction of Mahn Funeral Home in De Soto.



Constance JoAnn Gipson, 74, Festus

Constance JoAnn "Connie" Gipson, 74, of Festus died Aug. 7, 2023, in Crystal City. Mrs. Gipson worked as a court clerk for many years before retirement. She enjoyed making flower arrangements, crafts and spending time with family. Born Dec. 11, 1948, in St. Louis, she was the daughter of the late Joseph D. and Jeanette J. (Collins) Bolden. She was preceded in death by her husband: Danny Ray Gipson.

She is survived by three sons: David (Bernadette) Taylor Jr. of Hillsboro, Rev. Kevin (Deanna) Taylor of Barnhart and Michael (Karen) Taylor of Cadet; two daughters: Kimbra (Edward) Hooker of Festus and Sherri Gipson of Festus; three brothers: John (Renee) Bolden of De Soto, Jay (Diane) Bolden of Richwoods and Danny Bolden; three sisters: Judy Hines of De Soto, Debbie (Rev. Pat) Shannon of Orr City, Texas, and Cindy Bolden of Leslie; and a stepson: Scott (Kim) Gipson. She was preceded in death by a brother: Bobby Bolden; and two sisters: Debbie Broombough and Linda Green.

A funeral service was held Aug. 16 at Mahn Twin City Chapel in Festus, officiated by the Rev. Michael Holland. Burial was in the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks. Arrangements were under the direction of Mahn Twin City Chapel.

Norma 'Jean' Arnold, 92, Arnold

Norma "Jean" Arnold, 92, of Arnold died Aug. 9, 2023, at Cedarhurst in Arnold. Mrs. Arnold was a homemaker and a member of St. John's Ladies Aide. Born July 7, 1931, in St. Louis, she was the daughter of the late Amelia (Marschel) and Ben Ehlers. She was preceded in death by her husband: Victor Arnold.

She is survived by three children: Vicky (Tim) Kennon of Festus, Connie (James) Tarbet of Imperial and Terry (Steve) Stalley of Imperial; six grandchildren: Tracy (Tom) Collins of Festus, Tim (Christina) Kennon of Herculaneum, Nicole (Greg) Scheidle of Hillsboro, Jim (Holly) Tarbet of Festus, Jamie (Chris) Schott of Valley Park and Matt Stalley of Ft. Wayne, Texas; two siblings: Babe (the late Ed) Studer of Imperial and Donna (Jim) Hasty of Arnold; and many extended family members.

A funeral service was held Aug. 15 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Arnold. Burial was in the Shepherd Hills Cemetery in Barnhart. Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church. Arrangements were under the direction of Kutis Funeral Home in south St. Louis County.



**Attention
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"Blackcat News"
in this issue of the
Jefferson County
Leader.**



GRAND TIMES

A MAGAZINE FOR MATURE JEFFERSON COUNTY READERS

VOL. 24, No. 4

AUG. 17, 2023

LEADER
Publications

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8 a.m. to noon
Wednesday, Aug. 23
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1725 Jeffco Blvd.

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a chance to win!

Earn tickets for the
Gateway Arch riverboat
brunch cruise.
See Page 6B for details.



Get more
knowledge

Two guest speakers will
guide expo attendees
through simple exercises
and estate planning.
See Page 7B for details.

See Page 10B to read
Kathleen Brotherton's
story of low-tech
camping and find a
recipe for Corn Oysters.



Way Back When

Mary Jo Powell of Dittmer won first place in this year's "Way Back When" photo contest. To see the runners-up and other reader submissions, see Page 4B.



GRAND TIMES

A Leader Publication
for mature readers
in Jefferson County

Grand Times is a magazine for and about mature readers in Jefferson County. It is published in connection with the Leader's Senior Expo events

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Come on Down!

Arnold Senior Expo offers information, entertainment, food and fun

By Goldie Lowe
For Grand Times

An exciting morning is in store for visitors at the Arnold Senior Expo on Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the Arnold Eagles, 1725 Jeffco Blvd. The event is for those 50 and older and is sponsored by *Grand Times*, Leader Publications' magazine for seniors.

Admission is free for the event, which will offer a full schedule of bingo, live music, speakers, food, prizes and more.

Doors will open at 8 a.m., with free coffee and doughnuts, courtesy of Leader Publications, while supplies last.

Parking is free on the Eagles' lot, and St. Louis Golf Cart Shuttle will offer free limousine golf cart rides between the parking lot and the expo entrance, beginning at 8 a.m. The company typically focuses on transportation to and from parking lots before and after St. Louis Cardinal baseball games. To receive a shuttle ride, stand by your car and someone will pick you up on a golf cart.

Leader publisher Peggy Scott encourages seniors to attend the expo.

"It's going to be a full morning," she said. "We're going to have many enjoyable activities and lots of exciting prizes. We hope to see you there!"

What's happening?

More than 50 vendors will be on hand, offering products and services of interest to seniors. Many will hold give-aways and drawings for prizes, so attendees might want to bring along pre-printed address labels to make signing up easier.

The expo will include two free



Patty Meyer photo

The Arnold Senior Expo on Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the Arnold Eagles, 1725 Jeffco Blvd., will feature music and dancing among its entertainment.

rounds of bingo in front of the stage, with prizes of gift cards and free T-shirts, courtesy of Leader Publications. The first session begins at 9 a.m., and the second begins at 10 a.m.

Attendees will have the chance to work out with the Jefferson County YMCA at 9:30 a.m. Instructor Kim Gibson will lead a basic exercise class you can do from a chair. She will be leading the class at the stage.

Also taking place at the stage, at 10:30 a.m., Thad Ortman from South County Senior Law and Estate Planning Center LLC will share estate planning tips.

The *Leader* will hold a grand-prize drawing, with one lucky winner's name drawn at random from all eligible entries. One entry per person. The prize package will include four tickets for a Sept. 3 brunch cruise on the replica 19th century riverboat Becky Thatcher. Riverboats at the Gateway Arch are donating the prize.

The winning tickets are not exchangeable for another date.

The two-hour Sunday Brunch cruise will begin boarding at 12:30 p.m., and the cruise sets sail at 1 p.m. and returns to the riverfront at 3 p.m.

The prize also includes car service to and from the riverboat cruise provided by E-Bus, a Eureka-based party bus company.

Signups for the drawing will be at the Leader Publications booth. The grand prize and other prizes will be announced at 11 a.m. Attendees must be present to win the prize.

Another drawing will be held for a prize package from the St. Louis Art Museum, including a one-year museum membership.

The J.B. Louis and the Legends band will close out the event, playing a mix of country and classic rock tunes.

For information about Senior Expo, call the *Leader* at 636-931-7560.

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Arnold Senior Expo schedule

■ 8 a.m. | EXPO OPENS

Vendors will be on hand, many offering giveaways and drawings for free items. Also, free doughnuts and coffee will be available while supplies last.

■ 9 a.m. | BINGO

Joe Maddock with Maddock Insurance Group will call free bingo in front of the stage, with prizes of gift cards and T-shirts, courtesy of Leader Publications.

■ 9:30 a.m. | SPEAKER

Workout with Kim Gibson, a YMCA instructor, who will lead a basic exercise class you can do from a chair.

■ 10 a.m. | BINGO

Joe Maddock with Maddock Insurance Group will call the second session of free bingo in front of the stage.

■ 10 a.m. | FOOD

Salty Medics Kitchen will start selling street tacos for lunch.

■ 10:30 a.m. | SPEAKER

Thad Ortman from South County Senior Law and Estate Planning Center LLC will share estate planning tips.

■ 11 a.m. | PRIZES

Grand prize and other prizes will be announced.

■ 11:15 a.m. | MUSIC

J.B. Louis and the Legends, the official Leader Senior Expo band, will perform.

■ Noon | EXPO CLOSES



Joe Maddock



Directions

Arnold Eagles 1725 Jeffco Blvd.

From 61-67, driving north:

- Continue straight onto Jeffco Blvd.
- The Arnold Eagles will be on the left, immediately before the Arnold Historical Society.

From I-55, driving north:

- Exit 190 onto Richardson Road.
- Turn left onto Jeffco Blvd.
- The Arnold Eagles will be on the left, immediately before the Arnold Historical Society.

From 141, driving east:

- Turn right onto Hwy. 61-67.
- The Arnold Eagles will be on the right, immediately after the Arnold Historical Society.

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Remember

Leader readers share memories in
'Way Back When' photo contest

By Teresa Insera
For Grand Times

McCoy

Mary Jo Powell, 81, of Dittmer won first place and a \$100 cash prize in the Leader Way Back When photo contest, held in conjunction with the Arnold Senior Expo set for Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the Arnold Eagles, 1725 Jeffco Blvd.

More than 60 photos were entered in the contest, which called for Jefferson County and Eureka readers 50 and older to submit photos that were at least 25 years old.

Three contest winners were drawn randomly.

Tammy McCoy, 63, of Arnold will receive a \$75 cash prize for taking second place in the drawing, and Alice Lee, 85, of Morse won third place and \$50.

Powell

Powell's winning photo was taken around 1906 of her father, Harry Hampton, and her aunt, Violet Hampton Wills, at her grandparents' home in Elvins.

"It's one of my favorite pictures of my dad when he was young," said Powell, who was raised in Flat River. "My grandfather died when my dad was 13. He had to quit school to work on the Hampton Farm."

Lee, 85, sent in a photo from the 1930s of her husband's grandfather, Jesse E. Pounds, inside a Morse Mill business that served as a grocery store, tavern, diner, gas station and post office all in one. She said the businessman lived from Oct. 28, 1884, to Dec. 19, 1967.

Lee said she has many great memories of Morse Mill.

She said it was a fun and happy place to live.

Lee also said she loves looking at old photos and studying family history.

Additional photos entered in the contest will be published throughout this special publication, as well as on the Leader website, myleaderpaper.com.



Lee

Alice Lee of Morse Mill got third place with a photo of her husband's grandfather, Jessie Pounds, inside a Morse Mill business that served as a grocery store, tavern, diner, gas station and post office all in one.



when...?



McCoy

Tammy McCoy of Arnold earned second place with this Sensmeyer family photo taken at her grandparents' farm in 1953. From left are Uncle Roland; her grandfather, Ewald; Uncle Puk holding her mother; Uncle Ferd; her great-grandmother, Louise; Aunt Shirley and one of her daughters; and her grandma, Theresa "Ginny."



Powell

Mary Jo Powell of Dittmer snagged first place with this photo from 1906 of her father, Harry Hampton, and her aunt, Violet Hampton Wills, at their home in Elvins.



Childhood fun

Carol Williams, 63, of Barnhart sent in a picture taken by Wanda (Williams) Webb in the summer of 1968. The photo shows Carol and her cousin, Dale Weaver, in Ellington. Carol said that she and Dale were more like siblings than cousins. "We enjoyed the simple times when you played outside, made up games – especially going to the river for fishing, swimming and playing in the dirt," she said. Dale passed away in December of 2021. "Although we didn't see each other much as adults, I certainly do miss him and will always remember the joy we had as children."



*See more pictures
starting on Page 8B.*

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Brunch on the Mississippi

Expogoers will have chance to win four Gateway Arch riverboat tickets



The Sunday Brunch Cruise will kick off at 1 p.m. and return to the riverfront at 3 p.m. on Sept. 3. Boarding starts at 12:30 p.m.

By Lindsay Recar
For Grand Times

A short stop at the *Leader*'s booth at the Arnold Senior Expo could land you a lively afternoon on the Mississippi River.

The expo is set for Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the Arnold Eagles, 1725 Jeffco Blvd.

At the event, expogoers may enter their name and phone number in a drawing for a chance to win this year's grand prize: four tickets for Sunday brunch on Becky Thatcher, one of Gateway Arch's replicas of a 19th-century riverboat.

"The Sunday Brunch Cruise is one of

our most popular cruise offerings," said Mary Lamie, executive vice president of multi modal enterprises for Bi-State Development. "Guests of all ages sway to live music from a Dixieland band, excite their taste buds with the buffet-style meal, and see the St. Louis riverfront and Gateway Arch from a perspective only possible on the riverboats."

The brunch menu includes pancakes, cinnamon rolls, sausage, and biscuits and gravy, and for lunch, options include pasta salad, turkey, chicken and green beans. Coffee, tea and water are included, with juice, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages for sale.

The Sunday Brunch Cruise will kick off at 1 p.m. and return to the riverfront at 3 p.m. on Sept. 3. Boarding starts at 12:30 p.m.

The prize also includes car service to and from the riverboat cruise provided by E-Bus, a Eureka-based party bus company.

In addition to the cruise, expogoers also will have the chance to win a custom bag from the St. Louis Art Museum, which includes a one-year museum membership, books, greeting cards and other materials.

Attendees must be present at the 11 a.m. drawing in order to win either grand prize.



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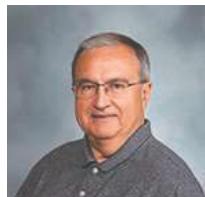
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Guest speakers scheduled at the Arnold Senior Expo

By Laura Marlow
For Grand Times

A pair of guest speakers will be on hand at the Arnold Senior Expo to illuminate, educate and motivate.

YMCA instructor Kim Gibson will get visitors moving with a chair exercise class.

Attorney Thad Ortman will talk about ways to help secure financial security as well as peace of mind through smart planning.

Use it or lose it

Gibson, 55, of De Soto is an instructor at the Jefferson County Family YMCA in Festus.

"I do Zumba, strength classes, core classes, some Silver Sneakers (classes for seniors)," she said. "I also teach some aquatic fitness classes."

Gibson said chair classes have all the components of regular classes, just modified to accommodate those who might have strength, range-of-motion or balance challenges.

"It can work for anybody, people of all abilities," she said. "We do chair yoga, with some of the typical yoga movements, only while seated. We'll be using a chair and a ball, working on core moves, stretching, just functional fitness."

Gibson defines "functional fitness" as being physically able to perform all the tasks of everyday life.

"A lot of the class is about practicing movements that keep us able to do the things we need – opening doors, getting out of bed or a chair, putting on and taking off clothes, getting in and out of the tub or shower. The stretching helps keep knees strong and flexible."

Some people may not need the chair for every exercise.

"The chair is used for stability and support," Gibson said. "I always say, 'The chair is your friend; use it as much or as little as you need to.' The goal is to maintain a healthy lifestyle so we can stay in our homes and get in and out of cars.



Jefferson County YMCA instructor Kim Gibson will lead a basic exercise class you can do from a chair at 9:30 a.m. at the Arnold Senior Expo.

"Exercise is so important. If you stop doing it, you're going to lose flexibility, and it's tougher to get back the older we are."

Gibson encourages seniors to drop by the YMCA and give her workouts a try.

"They are always welcome to come in and try a free class," she said. "They can call 636-931-9622 or find us online."

Important to plan ahead

When the topic of estate planning comes up, people typically think of questions like "Who do I leave my house to?" or "Who gets my money when I'm gone?" but there are other considerations, and precious few folks are looking into them, according to a local attorney.

"Statistics show that only 30 percent of Americans do estate planning," said Thad Ortman, an attorney with the South County Senior Law and Estate Planning Center. "And that is defined as anything like putting a beneficiary on a bank account or a car loan. People forget to do it on their IRA, their 401K, their house deed."

"I would say the real number of people who truly do estate planning is more like 15 or maybe 20 percent."

Ortman said failing to adequately plan can be costly in the long run.

"What people don't always understand is that probate is like the trash can; it's where they send all the things you didn't make a plan for," he said. "After you're deceased, unless you've made provisions otherwise, your assets will be divided through probate. At that point, I get involved, the court gets involved, and it takes a year to get all resolved."

Time isn't the only thing your heirs could lose.

"A ballpark figure for me (to facilitate an estate plan) is probably about \$2,500," Ortman said. "But if you have a \$200,000 house and it goes into probate, I'm going to make \$6,000 in fees. And that's just the house; throw in some investments and

See SPEAKERS, Page 9B

Chapel Hill Mortuary

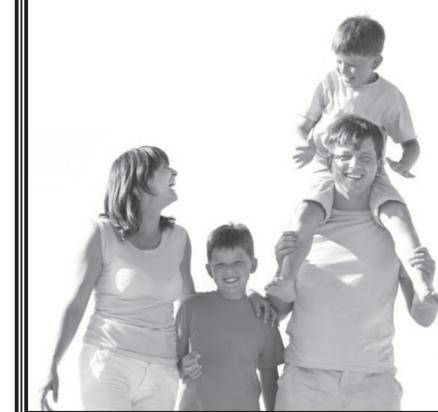
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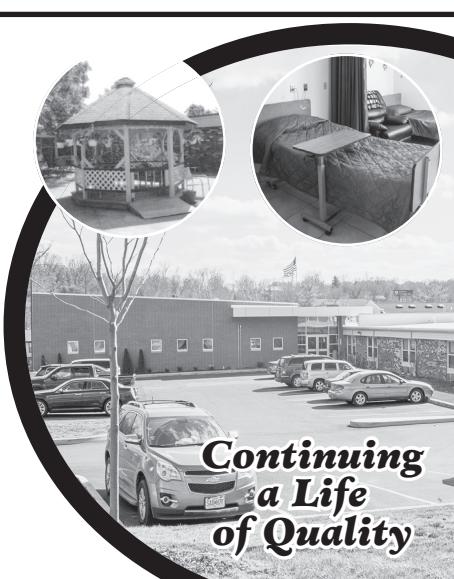
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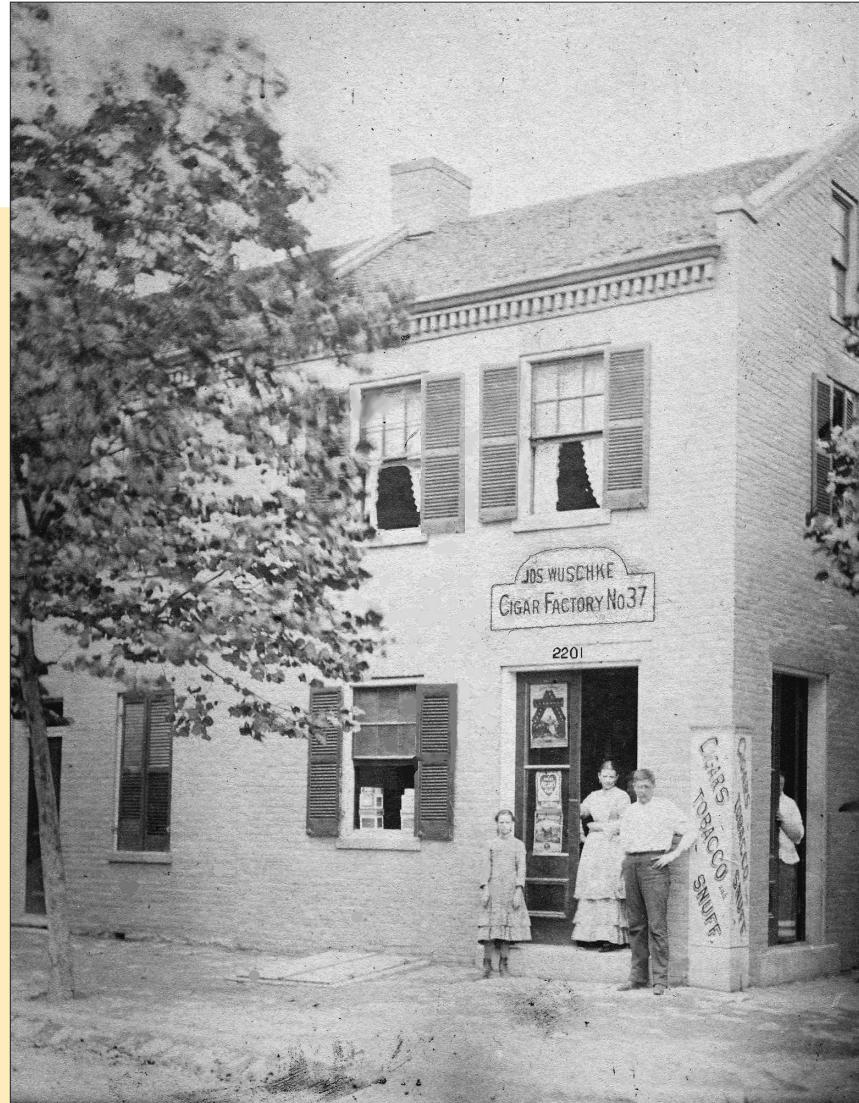
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House of worship

Jana Proske Brazeal, 65, of Arnold said her father, Walter Proske, took this picture of the First First Baptist Church of Arnold in June 1962.

A day on the river

Kathy Reed, 55, of High Ridge sent in a picture taken in July 1972 by her mother, Carol Mangelsdorf. From left is Bethann, Kathy, Donna, Pam and Jeffrey Mangelsdorf aboard the S.S. Admiral on the Mississippi River near St. Louis. "There was so much to do and see," Kathy said. "We liked dancing to the music played by Bob Kuban Brass."



A century's difference

Dennis Mattison, 69, of Pevely sent in two pictures of his wife's family's cigar store at 2201 S. 7th St. in St. Louis. The first photo is from 1885 and features siblings Robert and Franzinka Wuschke in the doorway, a young Wuschke girl to the left and mother Maria Wuschke poking out of the doorway to the right. "Josef and Marie Wuschke are my wife's third-great-grandparents," Dennis said. "They immigrated from Hungary in 1864, and Josef established a cigar store in downtown St. Louis in 1870. Robert took over the store when his father passed away in 1883." The second photo shows the building in 2017.

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Warm sendoff

Sherrie Iahn Marion of House Springs sent a picture of her father, Charles Iahn, with his grandparents before leaving to join the military. From left is Myrtle Brown, Maggie Iahn, Walter Iahn, Charles Brown and Charles Iahn in Park Hills, then Flat River, in the summer of 1949. "This picture is significant because it was the farewell party for my father, who was headed to the Navy during the Korean War."



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Speakers

Continued from Page 7B

other accounts and there'll be that much less to distribute to the heirs."

Ortman said it's equally important to make solid plans for end-of-life issues.

"You're talking financial power of attorney, health care power of attorney, HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) authorizations," he enumerated. "Those are very important, and they have to be set up before you're ill or incapacitated."

Once plans are in place, it's important to review them periodically, making any modifications necessary.

"There are horror stories where the husband and wife name each other on insurance policies when the kids are young," Ortman said. "Then the kids grow up, become adults, and they don't check or change beneficiaries. They pay

into the policies all that time and then, when one spouse dies, the benefit is just lost."

Ortman pointed out Missouri offers something called a beneficiary deed for homeowners wishing to bequeath a home to their heirs.

"It doesn't cost anything, it doesn't affect your mortgage, and we're one of only 18 states that have that," he said. "In Iowa, for example, if you want your house to go to your kids, it goes to probate or you have to set up a trust, and those are the only two choices you have."

Attorneys like Ortman are only part of the planning team you need to help set up an effective and secure plan for the end of your life and beyond.

"We work with CPAs, financial planners and others to help you set things up," he said. "It's just so valuable for financial and peace-of-mind reasons."

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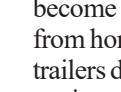
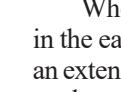
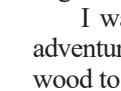
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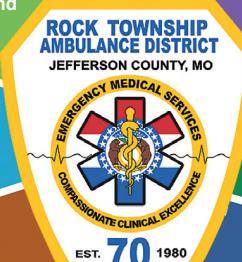
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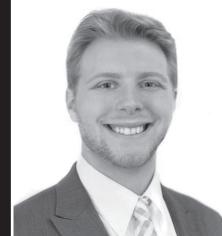


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Despite all the inconveniences, the guys had fun fishing and the teenagers had fun swimming while the cousins my size splashed around in the shallow parts of the river on gravel bars attended by their mothers, when they weren't cooking meals over a campfire.

'The good old days'



By Kathleen Brotherton
 For Grand Times

Camping in the great outdoors has long been a favorite pastime for families. Over the years, however, camping has become more like staying at a home away from home, especially for those with travel trailers decked out with all the modern conveniences. In "the good old days," you had to "rough it" and make do with whatever was available.

When my family went camping back in the early to mid-1940s, it was more like an extended family gathering, where aunts, uncles and cousins got together for a weekend of fun. Our extended family's favorite destinations were under the old bridges on Pine Ford or Brown's Ford roads along the Big River in the Ware area.

I was too young to remember those adventures because we moved from Maplewood to our farm in Hillsboro when I was 6, and if we wanted to camp, we didn't have to leave home to do it anymore. The rest of the family, however, often reminisced about those camping trips during family gatherings, so it seems like I was involved as well.

They didn't have modern, battery-operated lanterns to see what might be slithering around on the ground in the dark. They had coal oil lanterns, and one would be left hanging on a bare, low-hanging tree limb overnight in case there was a need to get something from a car or find "the bucket" to do their business since no camping toilets were around back then either.

Of course, bugs are attracted to any kind of light, which could lead to a restless night if you were sleeping on an old army cot under the trees. Not only did the bugs seek them out and bite them, but on one family camping trip, everyone was awakened by my aunt's screams when a



Kathleen's uncle took this picture in the 1940s at what he believed to be the Big River, in front of the Pine Ford or Brown's Ford bridge. The teens in the water weren't part of her family. They were just locals who were dipping for minnows to use for bait, Kathleen said.

bat seeking the bugs that had accumulated around the lantern swooped down too low, hitting her.

Many of the adults just slept in their nearby parked cars, while some of the younger members slept on cots. On another campout, one of my older cousins was whining about her cot being too hard, so someone suggested she gather some of the tall grass and weeds along the edge of the nearby hay field leftover from the last cutting and put them on top of the cot, covered with a sheet. In theory it sounded like a good idea, but once she was just getting settled in, the grasshoppers started moving around in the weeds, and she came flying out of her "soft bed" screaming.

On another occasion, my brother wasn't especially happy about his sleeping arrangements when my dad laid poles between the car's back window and the dashboard and threw a heavy canvas over it for a bed. If my brother moved around a lot, the poles would start rolling. My mom said I was small enough to fit in the area below the back window, so that was my bed, though I have no recollection of it.

Despite all the inconveniences of those outings, the guys had fun fishing and the teenagers enjoyed swimming while the youngsters splashed around in the shallow parts of the river on gravel bars under the watch of their mothers when they weren't cooking meals over a campfire.

Yes, camping has come a long way since those days, but for those who love camping, it is still a great way to enjoy the outdoors and create some special memories with your family and friends.

Camping looked a lot different in the 1940s



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separately and add to the grated corn. Add flour, butter (or margarine), salt and pepper and mix all together.

Drop the batter from a spoon into hot oil and fry until light brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve hot.

This recipe is from a cookbook, "New Delineator Recipes," copyrighted in 1930 that belonged to my mother.

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Sea dogs

Kelley DePauw, 60, of High Ridge sent in a photo of her father, Robert Killoren, back row, third from left, with his Navy crew in 1944 Honolulu, Hawaii. Robert worked on submarines as a welder. "I love this picture because it shows all the tough Navy men, and yet there is a picture of a puppy posing, too!" Kelley said.



Long before Photoshop

Margo Oberkrom, 73, of Cedar Hill sent in a picture believed to be taken on July 4, 1864, of her great-great-grandma as a young girl with her parents. "The picture sat in the back of our closet in the 1950s," Margo said. "As young children, we thought they looked like ghosts." Margo said that, in the 1990s, her sister-in-law took the photo to a professional photographer to learn more. He said it is a tintype photograph, which was a popular method of taking pictures at the time. The numbers written at the bottom, 7462, likely correspond to the month, day and year, and the letters, FW, a signature from the photographer. "The people were probably poor. It was common among people who couldn't afford pretty bonnets, suits and petticoats. The photographer would paint the clothes. In this case, the woman's bonnet, the little girl's dress and petticoat, and the man's suit were all painted in," Margo said.

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'It' girl

Pat Jarvis, 59, of Arnold sent in a photo from July 1966 of Pat's great-aunt, Esther Lamprecht-Bergman. The picture was taken by Esther's niece, Nettie Zastrow, in White Rock, N.M. "She lived in the St. Louis area, but was out there visiting family," Pat said. "My aunt was a go-getter and loved life. She was always impeccably dressed."



Posed with pups

Christine Wills of Arnold sent this 80-year-old picture of her mother, Marcella Smugala, with her two dogs, Booby and Jackie, on her farm near Nashville, Ill.



Returning home

Joe Brissette, 88, of Festus sent in a photo that his uncle, Ben Brissette, took around 1919 in Florissant of Joe's father, Joseph L. Brissette. Joseph served in World War I from 1917 to 1918. "He came home with all his war gear, and I played with the helmet, gas mask, bayonet and rifle as a child," Joe said.

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Grin and bear it

Carol Sklenar, 76, of Arnold sent a family photo from July 29, 1950. "It must have been way past nap time when my father decided to take this picture," Carol said. Carol sits to the right with her mother, Alice, and Carol's sister, Linnea, is surrounded by her three daughters, Mylbra, Diana and Karen.



New in town

Stephen Pipitone, 57, of De Soto sent an October 1910 photograph taken at Union Station. The picture features Stephen's great-grandparents, John and Virginia Fontana, and John's sister, Rose, and her husband, Stefano Salarano. Stephen said his great-grandparents had just immigrated from Borzonasca, Italy, in March of that year.

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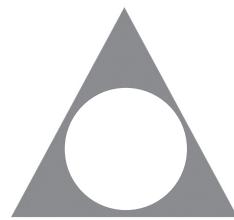
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Friends and family

Stephen B. Cook, 70, of De Soto sent a photo from the early 1940s in De Soto that he says was likely taken by his grandfather. From left are his aunt, Juanita Ellis; a man from Fredericktown, Darwin; two unknown women; his great-aunt and -uncle, Nettie and John Sahwenk; and his mother.



Always the 'baby'

Bob De Garmo, 67, of Festus sent in a baby photo taken by his mother, Elizabeth C. De Garmo, in summer 1956 in Kent's Hill, Maine. Sitting, from left, are Bob's brothers, Russell W. De Garmo, David P. De Garmo and Henry K. De Garmo, with himself in David's lap, less than a month old. "I was always my mother's 'baby,' regardless of my age," Bob said.

Work in progress

Gary Schneider of Arnold sent a photo taken by his mother, Patricia Schneider, on June 1, 1964. Gary, 4, right, and his brother, Greg, 5, are in front of a partially built St. Louis Arch.



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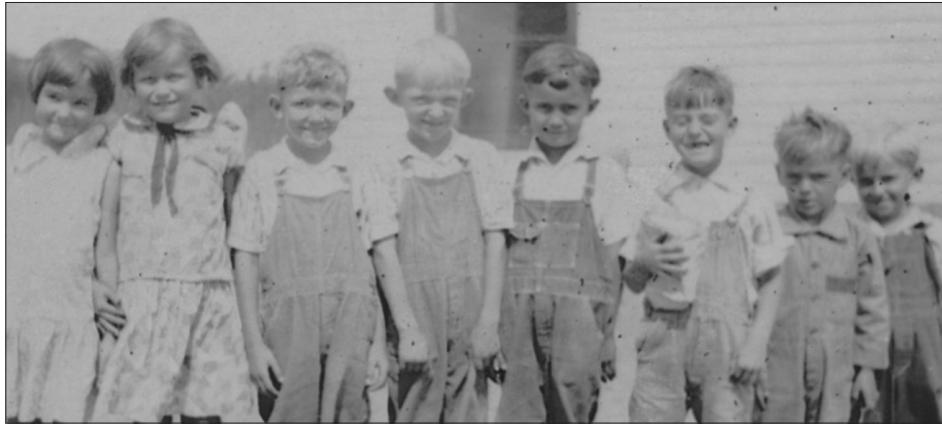
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Class photo

Bryanna Alexander, 71, of De Soto sent in her grandfather's class photo from 1933 that was taken by their teacher, Mable (Akins) Kingsland. From left are Elsie Pounds, Edith McFarland, Oscar and Oran Akins, who are Bryanna's grandfather and his twin, Clinton Kite, Wayne Hardin, Donald and Oral Larkins. Students stand in front of the now closed McGehan schoolhouse. "It had two doors, one for the boys and one for the girls," Bryanna said. "Notice the little lunch pails. Oscar and Oran did not have a lunch pail; they ran up the hill to their house for lunch."



Military men

Peggy Schneider Strunk of Imperial sent this photo taken in 1941 by Madelyn Strunk of, from left, Louie, Gregory, Vincent, Wilbert "Red" and Robert, wearing their military uniforms.



Golden years

Nick and Heather Bahr of Arnold sent in this picture of Don and Brenda Bahr of De Soto at their wedding Nov. 3, 1973. This year, Don and Brenda will celebrate 50 years of marriage.

Trigger and Dolly

DeAnna Dulle, 64, of Hillsboro sent a picture from the mid-1930s of her grandfather and grandmother, Bill and Loretta Bolton, in St. Louis. "The reason this picture is special to me is that it shows me exactly where I got my love of horses!" DeAnna said. Bill's horse was named Trigger, and Loretta's Dolly.



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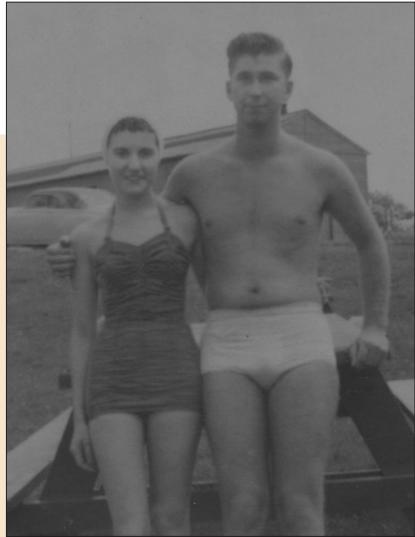
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Road trips

Darlene Erny, 71, of De Soto sent in a picture from 1922 of her grandparents, Daniel and Hulda Brooks; uncles, Carl, Roy and Clarence; aunt, Gertrude; and father, Ralph, who is being held by Hulda. "I just love this picture," Darlene said. "It's a part of my heritage. A copy of it is hanging on my wall."



Good times

Brenda Shocklee, 60, of Imperial sent in a photo taken by her mother's cousin, Eileen Hundelt, from around 1954 of Brenda's parents, Howard and Delores Jacobsmeyer. "Just a reminder that they were young once!" Brenda said. Delores passed away in 1995, and Howard is 91 years old.



20s tot

Teri Lonigro, 73, of Imperial sent in a picture of her father, Eldred Arnold, then 3, in 1920. "Arnold was named after his grandparents," Teri said.

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Special delivery

Tony Johnston, 68, of High Ridge sent in a picture his cousin, Beverly Herbert, took in 1939 of Eddie Caswell and Arthur Brown in front of a Cain's coffee delivery truck in Independence, Kan.

Beating the heat

Kim Morgan, 53, of Pevely sent in this picture of her parents, Betty and John Stephens, having a cold snack at a carnival in Evansville, Ind., around 1944.



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Wedding bells

Jane Markley, 69, of Festus sent in a photo taken in June 1921 by Block Bros Photography in St. Louis. Shown here are Jane's grandparents, Eleanor Reiner and Alphonse Oge, with their wedding party.



Love and marriage

Harold Peterein, 91, of Festus took this photo on Oct. 18, 1952, at Sacred Heart Church. Shown here are Harold's newlywed aunt and uncle, Nora and Arthur Peterein, riding in a carriage with the bridesmaid, Esther, best man, Daniel Peterein, and, standing, Tony Peterein.



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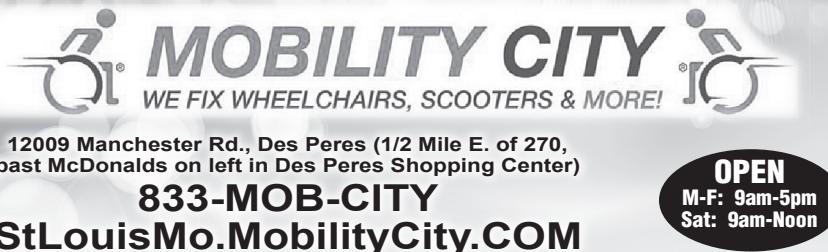


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Farm life

Jim Delue of Cedar Hill sent in a photo from 1928 taken at his family's farm just west of Grubville. The 6-year-old girl standing on the car is Marie Eoff, Jim's mother. The woman in the center is Jim's great-grandmother, Aggie Girardier, around 60, and on the far left is Jim's grandmother, Blanch Girardier Eoff, about 35. The man to the right is likely one of Aggie's four brothers. "Notice no one is smiling," Jim joked.



A girl and her dog

Cindy Foster of Arnold sent in a photo from the '50s of her mother, Mary Psaris, around 25 years old.

Lots of love

Susan Ziegler of Arnold sent in a photo taken by her great-grandfather in 1940. Her father, Bill Walton, now 88, is holding his dog, Snowball, with his cousin, Cecil Ray, to the left and their grandmother in the background. Susan said the picture is special since Bill lost his mother at birth and was raised by his grandmother. "His love of dogs and memories of his cousin are priceless," Susan said. "They were very poor, as you can see, yet lots of love in this picture."



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Quittin' time

Marsha Boyer, 66, of House Springs sent a photo of her great-grandfather, Charles Newton Twitty, then 20, in 1920 while working at a neighbor's cotton gin in southeastern Missouri. "We lived next door across a cornfield and loved to visit and hear his stories while he sat in his rocking chair," Marsha said.



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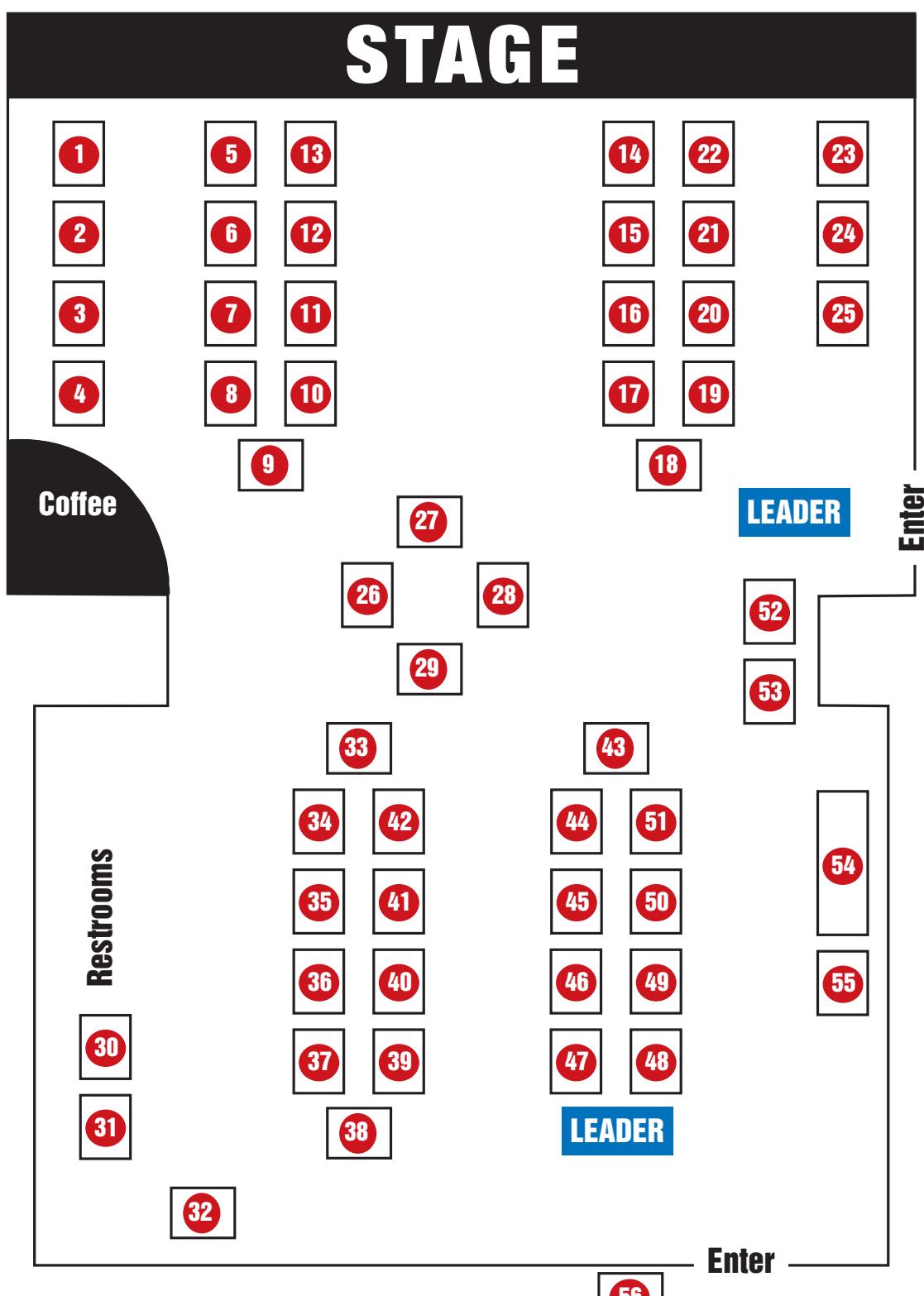
2023 Senior Expo Exhibitor Map

Wednesday, Aug. 23.

8 a.m. - Noon

Arnold Eagles Hall

1725 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold



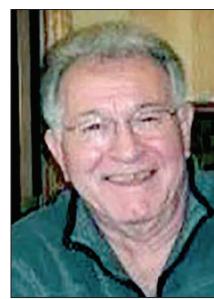
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12. Woodlands of Arnold
13. Rock Township Ambulance District
14. Thrivent
15. Missouri Securities Division
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48. Bria Health Services
49. Jacob Sunroom & Exteriors
50. Missouri state representatives
51. Festus Manor
52. Cardinal Door
53. Heilitag-Lang-Fendler Funeral Home
54. Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation
55. Senior Benefit Services
56. Farm and Homestead Equipment

Charles Fred Gray, 82, Herculaneum

Charles Fred Gray, 82, of Herculaneum died Aug. 8, 2023, at Festus Manor. Mr. Gray was a retired auto parts salesman for Jim Kirby Automotive and a member of Sacred Heart Church in Crystal City. He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus, Festus/Crystal City Elks, Eagles and Amvets Post 42. Born March 22, 1941, in St. Louis, he was the son of the late Lucille (Robart) and Ulla Gray.

He is survived by his wife: Sharon (Pusateri) Gray of Herculaneum; a daughter: Lisa (Phil) Rothweiler of Crystal City; two grandchildren: Stacey (David) Wisdom and Nick (fiancé Lindsay Schaefer) Rothweiler; and two great-grandchildren: Karson and Aubree Wisdom. He was preceded in death by two sisters: Patti (the late Walter) Leutzinger and Mary "Peewee" (the late Donald) Smith.

Funeral Mass was held Aug. 14 at Sacred Heart Church in Crystal City, officiated by Father Mike Boehm. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the Alzheimer's Association. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Vinyard Funeral Home in Festus.



Dennis F. 'Sonny' Ramsey, 78, Bloomsdale

Dennis F. "Sonny" Ramsey, 78, of Bloomsdale died Aug. 10, 2023, in Bloomsdale. Mr. Ramsey worked as a painter for District Council 2 and as an assembler at the Ford assembly plant in Hazelwood. He was born Sept. 29, 1944, in Clarksburg, W. Va., he was the son of the late Dennis Franklin and Sylvia (Schreve) Ramsey. He was preceded in death by his first wife: Patricia Ramsey; and his second wife: Lurinda "Nikki" (Myers) Ramsey.

He is survived by three children: Peter (Melanie) Ramsey of Richwoods, Byron (the late Sherry) Ramsey of Hillsboro and Susan Schrum of Bloomsdale; three siblings: Nancy Ramsey of Fairmont, W. Va., Donald Ramsey of Morgantown, W. Va., and Kathy Ramsey of Seattle, Wash.; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

A graveside service is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at St. Stephen's Parish Cemetery, 11514 Hwy. AA, in Richwoods. Arrangements are under the direction of Dietrich-Mothershead Funeral Home in De Soto.



Bobbie Jake Sipp, 83, Imperial

Bobbie Jake Sipp, 83, of Imperial died Aug. 12, 2023, at de Greeff Hospice House in St. Louis County. Mr. Sipp was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving four years on the USS Koiner DE-331. He was a retired machine operator, having worked more than 20 years at Baldor Electric. He was a devoted member of Friendship Assembly of God in Lemay, where he was a Sunday school teacher. Born June 28, 1940, in East Prairie, he was the son of the late Jake and Eddie B. (Hayden) Sipp.

He is survived by his wife: Brenda Sharlene (Wolford) Sipp; two children: Clayton (Deanna) Sipp and Randy (Jolee) Sipp; eight grandchildren: Justin Sipp, Quinn (Stormy) Turner, Bri Fouquet, Sam Sipp, Rachael (Matt) Meyer, Abby Sipp, Cynthia (Elizabeth) Sipp and Luke (Leighton) Sipp; three siblings: Jackie (Mark) Wamble, Eddie (Pauline) Sipp and Ricky (Debbie) Sipp; 15 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by a sister: Margie Sipp; and a brother: Bruce (Linda) Sipp.

A celebration of life was held Aug. 15 at John. L. Ziegenhein and Sons Funeral Home in south St. Louis County. Burial was in the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks, followed by a dinner at Friendship Assembly of God in St. Louis County. Arrangements were under the direction of John. L. Ziegenhein and Sons Funeral Home.



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*Celebration of Life for
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Luncheon from 11am - 2pm at
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Marrell La'Ron Brooks, 38, Festus

Marrell La'Ron Brooks, 38, of Festus died July 28, 2023, at Mercy Hospital Jefferson in Crystal City. Mr. Brooks lived with his mother and grandmother until he was 6, then moved to Pony Bird Home. Mr. Brooks is remembered as an easygoing, spontaneous and joyful man with warm smiles. He enjoyed playing maracas. Born Jan. 30, 1985, he was the son of the late Mary Ann Brooks.

He is survived by his guardian: Amy (Roger) James; Amy's sons: Balan and Tyson; two aunts: Cynthia and Earnestine; a brother: Terrell; and his Pony Bird family. He was preceded in death by his grandmother: Margaret Brooks.

A memorial service was held Aug. 3 at Robert D. Brown Funeral Home in Hillsboro. Arrangements were under the direction of Robert D. Brown Funeral Home.



Wolfgang L. 'Wolfy' Walter, 30, Hillsboro

Wolfgang L. "Wolfy" Walter, 30, of Hillsboro died Aug. 8, 2023, at his home. Mr. Walter was a shipping supervisor with Rug Doctor. He enjoyed riding his Harley, shooting guns, fishing and playing video games.

He loved going camping, having barbecues with big bonfires, watching thunderstorms and spending time with his family and friends. Born Dec. 7, 1992, in St. Louis, he was the son of Sheila (Dodge) and Scott Walter.

He is survived by his wife: Patricia "Patsy" (Anderson) Walter; four siblings: Sierra Walter, Tyler Walter, Brionna Walter and Trevor Walter; his grandmother: Louise Dodge; and many other family members and friends.

A celebration of life will be held from 2 p.m. until midnight Saturday, Oct. 21, at Cedar Hill Elks Lodge, 8430 Industrial Drive, Cedar Hill. Arrangements were under the direction of Cypress Pointe Cremation in St. Louis.



Marguerite Joyce Mastin, 77, Michigan

Marguerite Joyce Mastin, 77, of Mount Pleasant, Mich., died Aug. 9, 2023, at the Woodland Hospice House in Union Township, Mich. Ms. Mastin was an avid reader. She was known for her deep love of family, always reminding them that "Jesus loves you and so do I." She was born Dec. 22, 1945, in St. Louis, the daughter of the late Rose Marie (Striebel) and Hugo Albert Eberhardt.

She is survived by two daughters: Marguerite Renee (the late Ernie) Melton of Phoenix, Ariz., and Michele (Greg) Colores of Mount Pleasant; seven grandchildren: Jennifer (Richard) Caldwell, James Melton, Ernie Melton, Zachary (Chelsea) Colores, Ryan Colores, Isabella Colores and Jordan (Jeremiah) Miller; three great-grandchildren: Raven Mann, Christian Caldwell and Julianna Miller; three sisters: Madonna Marie Barr of Seymour, Ind., Pamela Michele Fusner Otec of Festus and Carole Ribeiro of Santa Cruz, Calif.; and a brother: Norbert John (the late Deborah Lynn) Eberhardt Sr. of Festus. She was preceded in death by two brothers: Hugo Paul (Jean survives of Thornton, Colo.) Eberhardt and Lawrence David Eberhardt; and five sisters: Gail Therese Harig, Jeanette Elizabeth (the late William) Ribeiro, Rose Marie Virden, Annette (the late James) Brady and Constance Eberhardt.



Visitation is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at Vinyard Funeral Home, 616 W. Main St., in Festus. Funeral Mass will follow at 1 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crystal City, officiated by Father Steve Lian. Burial will follow in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Crystal City. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements are under the direction of Vinyard Funeral Home.

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Gary J. Schwalbe, 78, St. Louis

Gary J. Schwalbe, 78, of St. Louis died July 27, 2023. Mr. Schwalbe served in the U.S. Air Force. He grew up in Florissant with his cousins Bill McDonald, Carole McDonald, Joe Fitzgerald and Patricia (Fitzgerald) Grey and attended Sacred Heart Elementary School, later becoming head lifeguard at the local pool.

When he was 5 years old, Mr. Schwalbe and his family moved to Florida, taking his cousin Carole with them. He graduated from Aquinas High School, where he played basketball and baseball, and later attended the University of Central Missouri. He enjoyed learning and held a deep appreciation for government, politics and history as well as spending time with his family and friends. Born Feb. 26, 1945, in St. Louis, he was the son of the late Marie (Horan) and Harold Sylvester (Bud) Schwalbe.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years: Marietta (McConkey) Schwalbe; two children: Patrick (Heather) Schwalbe and Susanne (Jerry) Byerly; and five grandchildren: Taylor Schwalbe, Cole Schwalbe, Jackson Byerly and Josh Byerly.

A graveside service for family will be held in the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks.

A celebration of life is scheduled from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, at the Arnold Elks Lodge, 1515 Miller Road, in Imperial. Memorials may be made to the Arnold Food Pantry and Angels' Arms. Arrangements are under the direction of Kutis Funeral Home in south St. Louis County.

Robert Allen Goodwin Sr., 82, De Soto

Robert Allen Goodwin Sr., 82, of De Soto died July 29, 2023. Mr. Goodwin worked as a carpenter for union Local 2214 until his retirement and was a member of Agape Faith Christian Fellowship Church in De Soto.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, a lifetime member of Amvets Post 48, a lifetime member of Elks Lodge 689 in De Soto and a VFW Booster. He enjoyed trips to Branson, watching old Westerns and spending time with family and friends. He was born Feb. 27, 1941, in Herculaneum, the son of the late Harry D. and Freda M. (Young) Goodwin.

He is survived by his wife: Sheridan A. (Ames) Goodwin; two sons: Robert A. Goodwin Jr. and Michael A. (Lisa) Goodwin, both of De Soto; three grandsons: Robert T.D. Goodwin, Colton M. Goodwin and Chance M. Goodwin; a sister: Sandra L. (Harold) Maness of De Soto; a sister-in-law: Patricia A. Goodwin; two brothers-in-law: Glenn E. (Bobbye J.) Ames and David A. (Mary K.) Wade; an uncle: Robert E. Young of De Soto; his lifelong best friend: Bernard (Martha) Ketcherside; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by two brothers: Dale J. Goodwin and Harry D. Goodwin Jr.; and a sister: Deloris M. Taylor.

Memorial services and burial will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Agape Faith Christian Fellowship Church, 3255 Hwy. V, De Soto, 63020. Arrangements were under the direction of Mahn Funeral Home in De Soto.



Lloyd and Liz Odell at the time of their wedding in 1998.



The Odells in a recent photo.

Odells celebrate 25th wedding anniversary

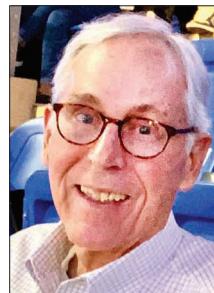
Liz (McKenzie) and Lloyd Odell of Imperial recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. The Odells were married July 30, 1998, in San Diego, Calif.

They have two children: Chloe Odell of Pacific and Patrick Odell stationed in

Washington, D.C.

Liz is a teacher for Fox C-6 School District, and Lloyd is a treatment plant team leader for Metropolitan Sewer District in St. Louis.

They celebrated with a trip to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.



Joyce Elaine Pazdera, 65, Festus

Joyce Elaine Pazdera, 65, of Festus died Aug. 12, 2023, at de Greeff Hospice House in south St. Louis County. Mrs. Pazdera worked in management for Walmart stores in Springfield, Desloge and De Soto, where she met and married her husband. They founded K.A. Pazdera Hauling and later M.J. Pazdera Hauling. She was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crystal City and the Twin City Area Chamber of Commerce. She enjoyed traveling, especially to Sarasota, Fla., and spending time with her grandchildren. Born Nov. 2, 1957, in Springfield, she was the daughter of the late Margaret (Loomis) Schneider and Jessie Knight.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years: Kim A. Pazdera; a son: Michael J. (Halie) Pazdera of Festus; a daughter: Kimberly Ann (Jacob) Scholle of Odessa; two sisters: Janice Thomas of Springfield and Karen (Steve) Letterman of Springfield; two brothers: Jim (Deena) Knight and Randy (Joyce) Knight, both of Springfield; and five grandchildren: Eliza and Nolan Scholle and Lane, Owen and Kash Pazdera. She was preceded in death by a brother: J.D. (the late Beverly) Knight; her stepfather: Gene Schneider; and a brother-in-law: Herb Thomas.

Private family services were held. Memorials may be made to St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements were under the direction of Vinyard Funeral Home in Festus.



Larry B. Halton, 75, De Soto

Larry B. Halton, 75, of De Soto died Aug. 11, 2023, at St. Luke's Des Peres Hospital in St. Louis. Mr. Halton was a concrete truck driver for Kienstra and Maclay and an oil delivery driver for Energy Petroleum and was a member of Teamsters Local 618. He was a Vietnam War veteran of the U.S. Army. Born Sept. 19, 1947, in Farmington, he was the son of the late Eulah (McGraw) and Frank Halton.

He is survived by his wife: Brenda (Caldwell) Halton; five children: Clay Halton of New York, N.Y., Chelsey (Jake) Theiling of Arnold, Sara (Matt) McAllister of De Soto, Josh (Emily) McCullough of De Soto and Amanda (Jerry) Nappier of De Soto; 10 grandchildren: Maci, Olivia, Mackenzie, Chase, Lauren, Madeline, Sophie, Levi, Wren and Miles; a sister: Shirley (Junior) Blackwell of Farmington; a brother: Donald "Shorty" (Sue) Halton of Farmington; his mother-in-law: Doris Caldwell Hale of De Soto; three sisters-in-law: Barbara Halton of St. Charles, Linda Halton of Bonne Terre and Karen (Edgar) Huffman of De Soto; a brother-in-law: Rodney (Karen) Caldwell of De Soto; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a stepmother: Alberta Halton; two brothers: Elmer Halton and Danny Halton; and a sister-in-law: Vicki Halton.

A funeral service was held Aug. 16 at Dietrich-Mothershead Funeral Home in De Soto, officiated by Randy Murphy. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery in De Soto. Arrangements were under the direction of Dietrich-Mothershead Funeral Home.



Jane and Terry Markley on their wedding day in 1973.



The Markleys in a recent photo.

Markleys celebrate golden wedding anniversary

Jane (Oge) and Terry Markley of Mapaville recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Markleys were married July 21, 1973, at Carondelet Park in St. Louis.

They have two children: Tonnie (Kiran Paranjpe) Markley of New York City, N.Y., and Erin (Alastair Sadler) Markley of Washington, D.C.; and four grandchildren: Ravi and Kavir Paranjpe

of New York City, N.Y., and Matilda and Evan Sadler of Washington, D.C.

Jane is retired from Parents as Teachers, and Terry worked as a mail carrier for 37 years before retirement. They enjoy traveling, spending time on the Black River and visiting family.

To celebrate, they had a party at Carondelet Park with friends and family at the pavilion where they were married.

Alzheimer's: Support groups, fundraisers held throughout county

Continued from Page 1A

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia usually are cared for by family members or friends, and 80 percent of people with Alzheimer's are receiving care in their homes.

Approximately two-thirds of dementia caregivers are women, about one in three caregivers is 65 or older, and approximately one-quarter of dementia caregivers are part of the "sandwich generation," meaning they care not only for an aging parent, but also for children younger than 18, the CDC reports.

In addition, those who look after people with dementia provide care for a longer duration than those who provide care for people with other types of medical conditions, according to the CDC. The demands of looking after people with Alzheimer's or dementia limits caregivers' ability to take care of themselves, so they are at greater risk for anxiety and depression, and often have a poorer quality of life than those who care for people with other conditions, the CDC added.

Govero said caregivers' lives can be unpredictable, and they may have difficulty finding someone else to sit with their loved ones to take a break or attend a local support group meeting. However, she said those who can find a way to attend a meeting will get some much-needed support.

The number of people who attend the local support groups varies from as few as three to 10, according to Govero and Hartung.

"We do not encourage caregivers to bring their loved ones," Govero said.

During the meetings, participants take turns sharing stories about the challenges they have faced, as well as successes and tips.

Govero's journey

Govero said she was invited to the support group when she was caring for her mom, the late Alice Ann Adams, who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's five years prior.

She remembers her goal was to slip in and slip out of the meeting without talking to anyone, but instead she felt safe and opened up.

Her mom died in 2012, and now Govero leads the support group because she knows she could not have made it through those hard times without it.

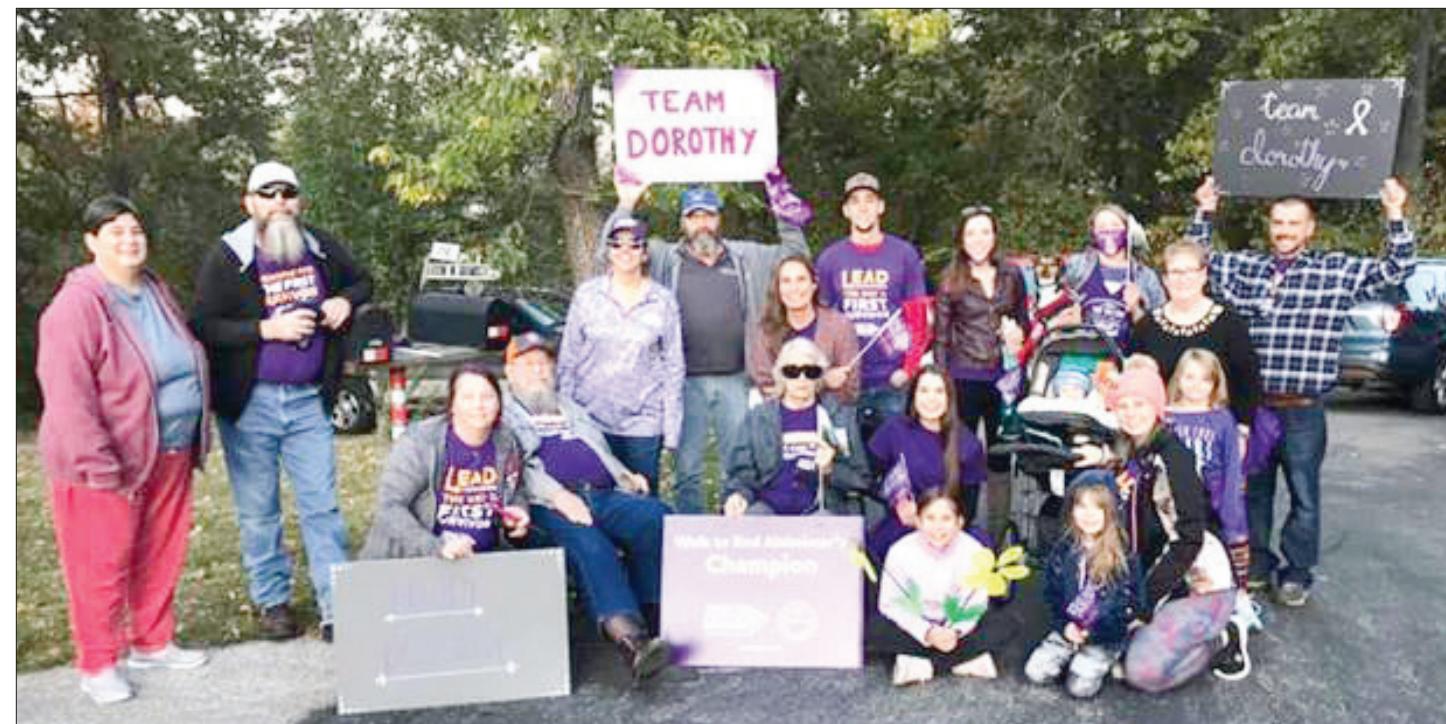
She said group members laugh and cry together and are not judged for the decisions they make while caring for their loved ones.

By sharing in the group, caregivers learn from each other about how to preserve their loved ones' dignity while taking care of them, Govero said.

Caretaking is a job you don't ask for, she said.

"It's hard to explain to anyone the emotions you go through," Govero said.

She said caretakers' biggest job is



Tina Hartung's mother-in-law has Alzheimer's disease. In 2020, the family took part in a virtual Walk to End Alzheimer's.



Debi Govero's mother, Alice, was born in Arkansas. When Alice's brother died, Alice, who was suffering from Alzheimer's, was so upset and confused that they took a break from her brother's visitation to go to Walmart. She found this hat, put it on and yelled, "Sooooey," which gave them both a much-needed laugh, Govero said.

holding their loved ones' hand, loving them and making them feel safe and secure.

Govero said she believes if those with Alzheimer's feel anxious, it can impact the progression of their disease.

Hartung answers call

Hartung said she started volunteering with the Alzheimer's Association in 2017.

Her mother-in-law, Dorothy Hartung, has Alzheimer's.

"In 2019, (the Alzheimer's Association) reached out to the various faith organizations, so I became the faith ambassador for our parish," she said. "I quickly learned how Alzheimer's had affected so many parishioners and family members at our church."

Hartung said the caregiver support group began at the church that fall,



Debi Govero, right, and her mother, Alice, pose for a photo after Govero's daughter teased them about being "twinsies."

originally as a six-week, bimonthly education workshop series. It transitioned into a monthly support group, which paused from early 2020 until June of 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am very passionate about the disease, and I want to give family members/caregivers as much information and tools to assist them in their journey," she said. "Our meetings are a great way for others to share their stories and have someone listen and/or share their ideas and concerns with."

For those who aren't able to go to a physical support group, you can find online support available at alz.org/help-support/community/support-groups. To find resources for a loved one, call the Alzheimer's helpline at 1-800-272-3900.

The Alzheimer's Association often presents free programs in the community. For example, a program called Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia will be held at 6 p.m. today, Aug. 17, at the Northwest Branch of the Jefferson County Library, 5680 Hwy. PP, in High Ridge.

The Walk to End Alzheimer's,

which is the biggest fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association, is also a place where caretakers can make connections with others experiencing some of the same challenges.

This year's walk in Jefferson County is set for Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Fox High School athletic field. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. The ceremony is at 9:30 a.m., with the walk at 10 a.m.

Last year, 275-300 people attended the walk, said Doug Geist, walk manager for the Greater Missouri Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

He said most of the people at the walk are going through the same kinds of struggles, so one of the walk's goals is to make sure those affected by the disease do not feel alone.

Geist said the walk has a carnival-like feel, so it provides a few hours for everyone to have a good time together.

Geist said he hopes to add a new element to this year's walk – a T-Rex run, which would encourage people to dress up like the dinosaur.

Entry in the walk is free, but people may bring their friends and family together to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association.



Patty Meyer photos

From left, Josh and Haley Finnegan from Arnold and their friend, Helen Ziegler from Festus, ride on the family route in the 2023 Bottleneck Bridge Ride.



Cyclists journey through the start gate and under the American flag.

Sweet ride

Bottleneck Bridge bike event draws hundreds despite threat of storms

By Teresa Inserra
For the Leader

The threat of bad weather forced organizers to scale back plans a bit for the eighth annual Bottleneck Bridge Bicycle Ride through southern Jefferson County on Aug. 13, but it didn't hurt participation, organizer Andy Held said.

He said the event had 435 riders from all around the county and beyond.

"It seems to grow every year, bringing in quite a few from out of town," Held said.

The ride began at 8 a.m. at Main and South Adams streets with the national anthem under the American flag, which flew above the starting arches from a Festus firetruck.

Both mayors from the Twin Cities led the ride – Festus Mayor Sam Richards riding in his car and Crystal City Mayor Mike Osher completing the 42-mile bicycle ride.

The ride also included 13- and

34-mile-long routes.

A 67-mile route was supposed to be included, too, but the forecast called for storms around the time those bicycle riders would have returned, so it was canceled for safety reasons.

Held said the weather held out, and participants said they had a great time.

The Festus Tourism Commission was the event's presenting sponsor, and the Jefferson County Growth Association and Trailnet helped organize the event.

As part of the event, Living Life on 2 Wheels and Pedal'n Pi, a bike and pizza shop in Crystal City, sponsored children's bicycle races, which were split into four age categories, from toddlers to 12-year-olds.

The event would not have been possible without the 60-70 volunteers who helped with staging on Main Street and at the stops along the routes at landmarks and businesses, Held said.

He said the purpose of the ride is to publicize Jefferson County landmarks.



Ambrose Nutter, 3, of Festus is ready to participate in a Bottleneck Bridge Ride kids race.



Emmett James, 3, of Festus joins a kids race in his first cycling event.



Liora and Doran Winnett, both 7 and from Festus, receive balloons from a vendor before the race.



The 2023 Bottleneck Bridge Ride has a family-friendly route through Jefferson County.

News briefs

Breaking news online at www.myleaderpaper.com**Festus woman on probation receives 10-year prison sentence**

A Festus woman on probation for drug trafficking and child endangerment has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for her role in a burglary at a home in Crystal City, court records show.

On July 26, Tiffany B. Spence, 29, pleaded guilty to first-degree burglary and three counts of stealing a firearm. That same day Jefferson County Div. 4 Circuit Judge Brenda Stacey sentenced Spence to 10 years for burglary and



Tiffany Spence

seven years for each of the other three charges, with the sentences to be served concurrently, or at the same time, for a total of 10 years, according to court

documents.

Jefferson County assistant prosecuting attorney Lindsay E. Whalen handled the case.

Stacey also revoked Spence's probation stemming from her previous offenses.

In the most recent case, Spence drove a 2013 Chevrolet Cruze to a home on Burgess Avenue in Crystal City at about 6:30 a.m. Aug. 15, 2022. She knocked on the home's front door, and when no one answered, she drove the car behind the home, the probable-cause statement in the case said.

Spence told investigators two men who were passengers in the Cruze broke into the home, and they stole four guns, ammunition, firearm magazines, a prescription box and a backpack. The stolen items were worth more than \$5,000, the report said.

In the prior case, Spence was arrested in April 2016 at a home on Roy Drive in Arnold. Investigators believed the home was being used as a lab to produce methamphetamine, and Spence was living at

the home with her child. Investigators found numerous items used to manufacture meth stored in a bedroom where the child was cared for, the probable-cause statement in that case said.

In September 2017, Spence was sentenced to 10 years in prison for drug trafficking and five years for endangering the welfare of a child, but those sentences were suspended and she was placed on five years' probation, according to court records.

Spence currently is in the Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Vandalia.

-- Leader staff

Festus woman receives three-year sentence for embezzling from real estate company

Crystal Hendrix, 50, of Festus has been sentenced to three years in prison, fined \$10,000 and ordered to repay

\$487,037.65 to a real estate company she admitted to embezzling from. She had worked for a St. Louis County Re/Max real estate agency, the U.S. Attorney's Office reported.

U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig sentenced Hendrix on Aug. 11. Hendrix had pleaded guilty to embezzling the funds on Feb. 28, court documents show.

According to the plea agreement, Hendrix handled payroll and had access to the company's accounts as part of her duties at Re/Max. From January 2018 through December 2020, she sent more than 140 payments from the company's accounts to her personal bank accounts, using names of the real estate agents to disguise the transactions as commission payments, the agreement said.

Hendrix used the stolen money to buy a vehicle and to buy meals at restaurants, the guilty plea said.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Edward Dowd III and Gwendolyn Carroll prosecuted the case, which was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service.

-- Leader staff

Crystal salary: District considers education, experience for pay

Continued from Page 1A

to have about 500 students this school year.

"I have a report of school districts from 400 students up to about 700 students, and most of the superintendents are paid between the high \$70,000 to high \$80,000 with about 400 students all the way up to \$157,000 for 531 students," Reiter said. "I think our salaries are commensurate with others."

Reiter, who has a doctoral degree, said another factor to consider when determining salaries is the level of education and experience in education the administrators or other employees have.

She has worked in education for about 27 years and was paid \$141,000 last year as the interim superintendent and assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Normandy Schools Collaborative in north St. Louis County.

Reiter is not the only new administrator at Crystal City this year.

The district also hired Eric Pouvaranukoah as principal at the junior high and high school. He was a teacher in the Windsor C-1 School District last year.

Pouvaranukoah's salary for this year is \$85,977. The district paid the former principal, Katie Minster, \$87,478.40 last school year.

Minster left Crystal City to work at LifeWise STL, a nonprofit organization that works to help people improve their economic positions.

The district's three returning administrators – Taylor Massa, director of special services; Shane Gordon, Crystal City Elementary School principal; and Ken Jones, director of transportation and athletic director – each received raises.

2023-2024 administrative salaries

- Crystal Reiter, superintendent, \$120,000
- Taylor Massa, director of special services, \$99,940
- Shane Gordon, Crystal City Elementary School principal, \$89,845
- Eric Pouvaranukoah, Crystal City Junior and High School principal, \$85,977
- Ken Jones, director of transportation and athletic director, \$63,778

Massa will be paid \$99,940 this school year after earning \$95,000 last year. Gordon's salary increased to \$89,845 after being paid \$82,011 last year. Jones is being paid \$63,778, an increase from the \$61,374.80 he earned last year.

"In smaller districts, the administrator wears a lot more hats," Reiter said. "In larger districts, administrators are frankly paid more and wear fewer hats, but there is a bigger breadth of responsibility (at the larger districts). I think we are in line with the number of children and number of hats that we are wearing with expected salary."

Based on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's recommended guidelines for administrators, Crystal City is meeting the minimum standards.

DESE recommends employing a superintendent but no assistant superintendent for districts that have up to 100 certified teachers. Reiter said Crystal City will have about 50 certified teachers this school year.

DESE also recommends one principal for schools that have up to 300 students.

"As far as the administrative staff, I think we are good," Reiter said. "If I were going to overstaff anything, it would be people dealing directly with kids."

Reiter said the district also increased teacher salaries for this school year after securing a state grant, which allowed Crystal City to raise its minimum teacher salary to \$38,000.

"I have heard a little bit that there is some concern with our teachers' salaries," she said. "However, that probably has changed a bit because there was a pretty significant raise this year, which was absolutely necessary. It definitely was deserved for the teachers. I think

we have to continue to work on that to stay competitive."

Reiter said another way the district has been able to retain staff members was by switching to a four-day school week at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

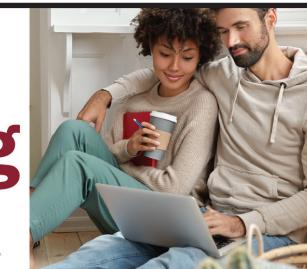
"Some weeks the teachers do work five days, but some weeks they do not," she said. "That has helped us to be more competitive, from what I understand. I have never experienced a four-day week."

"That has been part of the strategy to keep our teachers engaged and happy with their salaries."

"I haven't heard concerns from the community, at least yet, for how we are compensating across the board."

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Jefferson County Leader

SPORTS



The County Line

Russell Korando

Fox has Hornet fans itching for more, and they could get it

We all love stories of redemption. I was among those in 2018 clamoring for Crystal City and Herculaneum to join forces on the football field, in a state-sanctioned co-op arrangement, after the Hornets sank to 0-10, were outscored 428-65 and barely had enough players to field a team. I and others were concerned mainly about the safety of a freshman 150-pound lineman going against seniors 100 pounds bigger.

Then activities director Ken Jones hired Dan Fox to rebuild Crystal's football team, starting with building bodies as the school's strength-and-conditioning coach.

From what I saw at Hornet camp last week, the weight room has been a busy place. Senior running back Caden Raftery looks like he could take apart a truck with his bare hands. He and

See COMEBACK, Page 29A

Leader Athlete of the Week



Caden Raftery Crystal City football

The senior running back led the Hornets with 807 yards and scored seven touchdowns last season as Crystal City finished 8-2, its first winning record since 2011. Besides Raftery, who also starts on defense at linebacker, others leading the Hornets this fall will include senior running back Kanden Bolton (603 yards, 12 TDs), sophomore back Cohen Compton and junior quarterback Nolan Eisenbeis.

Check out the Athlete of the Week every week at our website, myleaderpaper.com.



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I-55 CONFERENCE FOOTBALL PREVIEWS

Moore effort

Grandview senior rises with sun for job before football

Grandview Eagles

By Russell Korando
For the Leader

Nash Moore has the work ethic to succeed in high school football.

Now all the Grandview senior needs is opportunity as the Eagles' top returning weapon on offense in 2023.

Moore worked a job in construction this summer that required rising at 6 a.m. After work, he headed straight for football camp and weightlifting. He says he's ready to improve on his team-leading six touchdowns and 905 yards rushing on 209 carries in 2022.

"There's always room to grow," Moore said. "We have tons of room to grow, and we grew a lot from last year when we had a lot of young players."

Moore is one of 10 seniors welcomed back by second-year head coach Jason Kimminau, who guided Grandview to a 3-7 mark in his first season after taking over for former head coach Dave Dallas, the man credited with rescuing the program from near-oblivion in 2017-2018. One of Kimminau's priorities this season is improved conditioning, including work on the field as well as cardio and weightlifting before strapping on the pads.



Russell Korando photo

Seniors on this year's Grandview football team, front row, from left, are Tyler Fox, Jacob Walker, Ryan Yokely and Devin Berrett. In the back, from left, are Wyatt Thebeau, Justin Reed, Jack Stotler, Nash Moore, Travis Hoskins and Caleb Medling.

"At times last year we let that fall to the wayside and didn't focus on it enough," Kimminau said. "We're trying to develop that as a permanent part of the program."

Among those welcoming that emphasis is Moore, who considers himself a "heavy back" running consistently

between the tackles. Kimminau said defenses will surely key on Moore this fall.

"Teams will do what they can to make his life harder," Kimminau said. "That opens somebody else up. We have other weapons. I don't see a weak link

See EAGLES, Page 28A

New coach, same QB lead Lancers

St. Pius Lancers

By Russell Korando
For the Leader

It's one trait all quarterbacks should aspire to.

Moxie.

New St. Pius X football head coach Frank Ray said senior James Smith has plenty of it. Smith enters his fourth year on the varsity and the second as the Lancers' starting QB.

"He's a natural leader," said Ray, who comes over from Hillsboro, where he served as the Hawks' defensive coordinator. "All the kids naturally follow him. He's a great athlete with good instincts. He makes things happen when things break down around him."

Last year, Smith missed four games after breaking his collarbone against Herculaneum, but St. Pius still finished 8-3 overall and 5-1 in the I-55 Conference in now-retired Dan Oliver's final season as head coach. St. Vincent also was 5-1 and claimed the championship by beating the



Russell Korando photo

Key players on this year's St. Pius X football team, front row, from left, are Patrick Flanagan and Justin Lehn. In the back, from left, are Thomas Boldt, Ayden Eldridge, James Smith, Alex Westermann, Allen Reed and Daniel DeGare.

Lancers 21-6 at Father Dalton Stadium. Smith didn't play in that game.

"(The injury) was very painful," Smith said. "I got tackled and landed on my shoulder and it snapped."

A recovered Smith led the Lancers

to a 36-6 win over Grandview in the first round of the Class 1 District 2 tournament. But the post-season ended a week later with a 55-0 battering at Duchesne. Smith finished with impressive stats for having played only seven games: 12 touchdown passes and only four interceptions in 109 attempts (49 completions), with 347 yards rushing on 62 carries (5.6 average per run) and four TDs.

Smith said he's ready to take on the I-55 gauntlet for one more campaign.

"I'm excited about our new blocking schemes and the new athletes we have on the team," he said. "That will push our offense to a whole other level."

Brennan Ervin backed up Smith in

See LANCERS, Page 26A

I-55 CONFERENCE FOOTBALL PREVIEWS

Blackcats back to square one on offense



Herculaneum Blackcats

By Russell Korando
For the Leader

Herculaneum's 2023 offense won't resemble last season's aerial circus by quarterback Jackson Dearing and fleet wide receiver Lucas Bahr, who have graduated.

They went out with a bang, with Dearing completing 143 of 247 passes (58 percent) for 1,888 yards and 19 touchdowns and Bahr hauling in 52 tosses for 974 yards and 12 TDs as the Blackcats started 3-0 and finished 6-5. Bahr, who also ran for 458 yards and four touchdowns, would have had even higher numbers had he not missed almost half the season with an injury.

Their departure forces third-year Blackcat head coach Blane Boss to reconstruct an offense starting with rich potential at running back.

Not that the coach will soon forget his high-octane tandem of 2022.

"They were very good players on offense and defense," said Boss, who is 11-11 in his two years at the helm. "You can't teach the intangibles Lucas had. He's 6-2, 200 pounds and runs a 4.5 40-yard dash. He had that God's gift to use that ability on Friday nights. That's going to be hard to replace."

"Jackson gave you everything he had on Friday nights. He was very good at throwing the ball, probably the best I've had. When you can spread out like that on offense, that's why they do that in the college and pro game – you can pick up bigger chunks rather than running the ball."

The Blackcats also will miss four-year starter Mikey Moloney at running back and linebacker. As tough a runner as he was, Moloney (806 yards, 11 TDs) stood out defensively with 112 tackles, three sacks, two fumble recoveries and an interception.

"He's probably been my favorite because of the tough-nosed, fearless way he played the game," Boss said.

Two of this season's starters on offense and defense are also two of the school's top wrestlers. Senior Shea Eberhardt finished sixth in the state in Class 2 at 285 pounds in February. Keaton Reeves, a sophomore, won 40 matches and was a state qualifier at 144. Eberhardt should be a force on both lines and Reeves is set to replace Dearing at QB.

"I like the guys we have," Boss said. "We have some guys who definitely step up to be those (standout players). After (last) season ended, I started getting the wheels turning about who could be that guy at quarterback."

"(Reeves is) a tough runner, very fast. He's a good-sized kid who will grow more. He's really taken to it so far. I think he likes defense more because he gets to hit people. He'll make mistakes, but I'm excited for his future."

Eberhardt has played tackle both



Russell Korando photo

Key players on this year's Herculaneum football team, from left, are Anthony Gallina, Demian Light, Brayden Mattingly, Luke Brice, Shea Eberhardt and Mac Waddell.

ways since his freshman year and translates his wrestling skills into the trenches. Senior Demian Light returns to his starting guard position. Sophomore Camron Light, Demian's brother, was a starter up front until an injury ended his 2022 season; he's back in the mix. Three other players are competing for the remaining open line spots.

"I think our line could be a strength or weakness," Boss said. "It's a matter of how hard they sacrifice."

Juniors Anthony Gallina and Luke Brice return at running back and will constitute the drive train of the offense,

at least early on. Gallina has been playing since he was a freshman, when he was a starter on defense. He was injured in the second game last year and didn't return until the season finale.

"(Gallina is) hungry and he'll see a lot of touches," Boss said. "I'm excited about Luke. He's a big boy, right at 200 pounds."

Sophomores Peyton Light, the Lights' cousin, and Brayden Mattingly and junior Mac Waddell all have varsity experience carrying the ball and will add depth in the backfield – if they can stay healthy. Mattingly started against St.

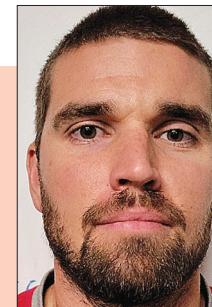


Ron Rigidon photo

No team in the I-55 Conference was hit harder by graduation than Herculaneum as the Blackcats must replace all of their skills players. Luke Liles, a 2023 graduate, leads Herculaneum onto the field last season.

"Jackson gave you everything he had on Friday nights. He was very good at throwing the ball."

Blane Boss
Herculaneum football head coach



Herculaneum Blackcats
I-55 Conference

2022: 6-5
Head coach: Blane Boss
*Conference game
Aug. 25 at Windsor, 7 p.m.
Sept. 1 vs. Fredericktown, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 8 at Jefferson, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 15 vs. St. Vincent, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 22 vs. St. Pius X, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 29 at Grandview, 7 p.m.
*Oct. 6 at Bayless, 7 p.m.
Oct. 13 vs. Perryville, 7 p.m.
Oct. 20 vs. Crystal City, 7 p.m.

Vincent in Week 4 but missed the rest of the season with an injury. "(Mattingly) can be a difference-maker for us," Boss said. "Mac started last year and (also) got hurt. This crew has had action, but health has been an issue for them so far."

The Blackcat running backs will figure more prominently in the passing game, with the wide receivers doing more blocking than pass-catching.

"We had an opportunity to throw the ball last year, but we're going to have to run to be successful (this season)," Boss said. "Are there any Lucas Bahr's? Probably not. But we have quite a few who can catch the ball."

With Eberhardt plugging up the middle defensively, the linebackers and defensive ends will be counted on to make plays. At inside linebacker is Demian Light.

"(Light is) going to have to be the guy in the huddle who's leading the pack. He'll be the next Mikey (at linebacker)," Boss said.

Peyton Light and sophomore Clark Struckhoff will play outside linebacker, and Boss said Struckhoff is the first prototypical player he's had at that position.

"He's a freak athlete – (clean-lifting) 230 pounds," Boss said. "He's got the talent and by the time he's a senior, I think he'll be a special player, and I don't see why he can't be this year (as well)."

Key starters in the secondary are Gallina, Mattingly and Waddell, who Boss said is "not afraid to hit and loves to come up to make tackles."

Herculaneum was 24 minutes away from playing for a district championship last season, but squandered a halftime lead against University City in the Class 3 District 2 semifinals before falling 20-14.

For the third consecutive season, the Blackcats open against a nonconference geographic rival – Windsor. The Owls won 15-12 in Imperial in 2021 and Herculaneum romped 42-6 at home last year. Windsor will host on Aug. 25.

"They have their whole (offensive) line back but one guy," Boss said. "The Wessels kid (Windsor junior Evan Wessels) looks like the real deal. They've got their whole defensive line back except for one kid as well."

"When they need a big play, they go to (senior receiver) A.J. Patrick. He's been there forever. We'll need to know where he's at all the time. They've always been a spread offense, but I wouldn't be surprised if they changed it up and ran the football."

FOOTBALL PREVIEWS

Hornets are hungry to extend success

Crystal City Hornets

By Russell Korando
For the Leader

The Crystal City football team has come a long way in four years – arguably farther than any other school, large or small, in Jefferson County.

The Hornets went 0-10 in 2019 as the program dropped out of the I-55 Conference and seemed on life support. Crystal won two games in the COVID-restricted 2020 season and three in 2021.

Then came the giant leap of 2022 as the Hornets, aided by their independent schedule, started 5-0 and finished 8-2, the school's first winning record in 11 years.

This year's seniors were freshmen in that survival-minded campaign of 2020 and their mission for 2023 is simple – keep winning.

"We're working on establishing leadership and it's (the seniors) time," said Dan Fox, Crystal City's head coach since 2018. "They're hungry and they've done everything I've asked them to do for four years and that's what we're stressing. And the underclassmen are following suit."

The Hornets feature some of the most dynamic skill-position players in the area, including a three-headed monster at running back in seniors Kanden Bolton and Caden Raftery and sophomore Cohen Compton. Last year they combined for 24 touchdowns and 1,688 yards rushing on 234 attempts, an average of 7.2 yards per carry.

When Crystal wants to keep defenses honest and throw the football, a prime target will be senior wide receiver Camden Mayes, who caught 10 passes for 151 yards and one TD. At the Class 1 state track and field championships this spring, Bolton and Mayes went 1-2 in the long jump and Mayes finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles.

"It's going to be spread out evenly; we have athletes everywhere," said Raftery, who rushed for 151 yards in the Hornets' 32-14 win over Herculaneum last fall, their first conquest of the



Russell Korando photo

Seniors on this year's Crystal City football team, front row, from left, are Antonio Lopez-Ritrovato, Kanye Wigfall, Kanden Bolton and Logan Gerhardt. In the back, from left, are Matt Bins, Luke Holdinghausen, Seth Senter, Camden Mayes and Caden Raftery.

Blackcats since 2011. Sophomore Landyn DeRousse will provide depth in the running game after gaining 151 yards on 18 carries (8.4 average per run) and scoring three touchdowns a year ago.

"Any given week, you don't know who's going to get the ball," Fox said. "Gaining 1,000 yards is a lot for one guy to attain in our offense. If we're doing things right, they'll get eight to 12 carries a game. So that keeps them fresh and ready to play defense. You never know, they could rip off some big gains. We'll see."

Senior Logan Gerhardt will line up at the other receiver spot and sophomore Cale Schaumburg, brother of the graduated quarterback Cyle Schaumburg, will play tight end.

The one big change for the Hornets is

at quarterback, where junior Nolan Eisenbeis backed up the elder Schaumburg last season and is ready to take command. He's the third Eisenbeis to play QB for Crystal in the last 10 years, following cousins Matt and Chris.

"(Nolan Eisenbeis) is different from Cyle," Raftery said. "Cyle was 6-4 and very slithery. Nolan is 5-10 with a thicker build. He's very smart, and he can throw the ball really, really well. He's really athletic.

"His freshman year, he played wide receiver and tight end. His sophomore year, he was our backup QB and he could still play wide receiver. After sitting behind Cyle, he knows this offense really well."

"This isn't something Nolan isn't

"They're (seniors) hungry and they've done everything I've asked them to do for four years."

Dan Fox

Crystal City football head coach



Crystal City Hornets Non-affiliated

2022: 8-2
Head coach: Dan Fox
*Conference game
Aug. 25 vs. Chaffee, 7 p.m.
Sept. 1 at Louisiana, 7 p.m.
Sept. 8 at Bayless, 7 p.m.
Sept. 15 vs. Confluence Prep, 7 p.m.
Sept. 22 vs. Gateway, 7 p.m.
Sept. 29 vs. Russellville, 7 p.m.
Oct. 6 at Van-Far, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14 at True Divine Word, 1 p.m.
Oct. 20 at Herculaneum, 7 p.m.

ready for," Fox said. "He's been under the wings and learning the position. He's got a different style than our previous (QB)."

The offensive line is in good hands with seniors Seth Senter and Luke Holdinghausen, both four-year starters. Senter is moving from center to right tackle, and Holdinghausen is at right guard. They each tip the scales at around 240 pounds and will start on defense as well, Senter at tackle and Holdinghausen at end.

"Luke and Seth are the backbone of our line," Fox said. "They are two of the stronger kids that Crystal City has ever seen walking the hallways. We're working with a mesh at center and the other side of the line."

Senior Antonio Lopez-Ritrovato and freshmen Trent Eisenbeis and Gage McPherson are the front-runners for the other defensive line jobs, with junior Reed Lamar-Finch and sophomore Hayden Westbrook also angling for playing time.

"We're giving every one of them an opportunity," Fox said.

Cale Schaumburg – who also will punt and try out for the placekicking duties – and Eisenbeis will play inside linebacker. Fox said both are smart, vocal defenders who can cover ground. Returning junior Evan Wolfe will lead the secondary at cornerback.

Crystal City opens the season Aug. 25 at home against Chaffee, whom the Hornets shut out 43-0 in the 2022 opener. Crystal beat Louisiana 40-20 at home in Week 2, but the Bulldogs returned the favor with a 28-24 upset in the first round of the Class 1 District 2 playoffs.

Lancers: New Pius receiver comes over from school soccer team

Continued from Page 24A

2022 but is no longer on the team, so freshman Danny DeGeare is No. 2 under center. That's one reason to look for a more run-oriented offense this fall.

"We're going to run at people and be strong and physical up front," Ray said. "We've got some big backs and we're going to get after people."

Senior Justin Lehn, son of St. Pius school president Jim Lehn, will move from fullback to halfback. At 5-9 and close to 200 pounds, and taking full advantage of the Lancers' new weight room/fitness center, he'll be a load to bring down. He scored four touchdowns

last year on only 26 carries and caught eight passes with one TD.

Alongside him will be new fullback Dawson Litterall, a freshman. Ray said the pair have the ability to punish at first contact through the line. Juniors Alex

Westermann and Thomas Boldt and freshman Matt Thomas will provide depth at running back.

Another new face expected to prime the offensive pump is senior Patrick

"We're going to run at people and be strong and physical up front. We've got some big backs."

Frank Ray

St. Pius X football head coach

St. Pius X Lancers I-55 Conference

2022: 8-3
Head coach: Frank Ray
Aug. 25 at Brentwood/Clayton, 7 p.m.
Sept. 1 vs. Bishop DuBourg, 6 p.m.
*Sept. 8 at Grandview, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 15 vs. Jefferson, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 22 at Herculaneum, 7 p.m.
Sept. 29 vs. Cuba, 7 p.m.
*Oct. 6 at St. Vincent, 7 p.m.
*Oct. 13 vs. Bayless, 7 p.m.
Oct. 20 at Perryville, 7 p.m.

Flanagan, who comes over from the soccer team. He's never played football but has the athleticism to develop into a top

See LANCERS, Page 28A

I-55 CONFERENCE FOOTBALL PREVIEWS

Blue Jays hope to catch Breeze as top wide out

Jefferson Blue Jays

By Russell Korando
For the Leader

In prep football, when the arc of competition may span only 10 games, a sputtering offense in the early weeks can compromise your whole season.

Jefferson head coach Matt Atley knows all about it. One year ago, in his first game piloting the Blue Jays, the offense laid an egg with 68 yards rushing in a 6-3 loss at Fredericktown.

Jefferson rebounded to smack Cuba 35-8 at home the next week, only to trip up in losses to I-55 Conference rivals Herculaneum (16-8) and St. Pius X (27-12). The Blue Jays finished 5-5 after losing 17-14 to John Burroughs in the Class 2 District 1 playoffs.

For Atley, it was a learning experience. "People can tell you about being a head coach, but it's a trial by fire like any leadership role," Atley said. "I did a lot of reflection about what I could do better. There were things I could have done better to prepare us against Fredericktown, and this year I'll make sure we don't make the same mistakes."

The offense eventually came around last year, scoring 34 points or more four times in six weeks. But Atley will need to find a replacement for his top rusher, Sean Usery (1,055 yards, 15 touchdowns), who graduated. The leading candidates at running back are senior Max Schnitzler, junior Jacob Brunts and sophomore Tyler Crader.

Junior Karson Haefner and senior Kole Williams split time at quarterback a year ago as Atley searched for the best combination of weapons. Williams is now the starter with Haefner moving to a hybrid running back/receiver role. Williams threw for nine touchdowns on only 59 passes in 2022.

"Realistically, we have four kids who can do the job (at quarterback)," Atley said, citing sophomores Cooper Frisk and Noah Buehler as the up-and-comers. "Kole has gotten the majority of



Ron Rigidon photo

Key players for this year's Jefferson football team, front row, from left, are Brandon Burford, Kole Williams, Devon Dawson and Levi Stokes. In the back, from left, are Mikey Frisk, Max Schnitzler, Nate Breeze, James Heberlie and Bennett Pemberton.

the reps. He's got great leadership and is a poised kid. When he makes a mistake, he's first to say it was on him and he'll fix it. He's just a natural leader that kids follow. He has great athletic ability and he's a playmaker."

Williams' favorite target will be senior Nate Breeze, who earned all-state recognition (third team) at tight end last year, snagging eight TD passes among his 13 receptions. The 6-3, 200-pound multisport athlete averaged nearly 20 yards per catch.

"We played Ste. Genevieve and were down by two touchdowns and he went up on an underthrown ball and caught it over the top of the kid and ran for a 60-yard (TD)," Atley said.

The Blue Jays will feature another tall senior receiver in 6-3, 175-pound Bennett Pemberton. Receiver Brandon Burford also is back for his senior season after

seeing action last year mostly as the place-kicker (one field goal and 15 extra points).

"We have athletes to get in space and that will allow them to do some great things," Atley said.

Opening that space will be up to a brand-new offensive line led by senior Mikey Frisk at center.

Senior Levi Stokes is at left tackle, junior Wyatt Place at right tackle and juniors Alex Roth and Jake Watkins are the guards.

"It's been a work in progress," Atley said. "We went to a Farmington contact camp and they showed up ready to play.

"You've got kids who just want to play. Some were tight ends and running backs who wanted to get on the field."

Breeze leads the defense at safety after intercepting five passes last year.

**Jefferson Blue Jays
I-55 Conference**

2022: 5-5
Head coach: Matt Atley
*Conference game
Aug. 25 vs. Fredericktown, 7 p.m.
Sept. 1 at Cuba, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 8 vs. Herculaneum, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 15 at St. Pius X, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 22 vs. Bayless, 7 p.m.
Sept. 30 at Perryville, 1 p.m.
*Oct. 6 vs. Grandview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 13 at Ste. Genevieve, 7 p.m.
*Oct. 20 at St. Vincent, 7 p.m.

Schnitzler and Haefner are the cornerbacks.

"It's nice to have (Breeze) there, where during a game I can yell, 'Nate,' and he gives me a thumbs up about the coverage before I say it to him," Atley said.

Mikey Frisk is back at inside linebacker for the third year, and Atley said he has done a phenomenal job of picking up the calls.

Watkins and Crader also play inside linebacker with Pemberton at one outside spot and Brunts and junior Landon Weiss battling for the other outside spot.

The defensive front features sophomore nose tackle Aiden Allen along with Place, Roth and sophomore Troy Jefferson. Junior Aiden Dowd also will rotate in.

"We've got sophomores (on the line of scrimmage) who are stepping up to answer the bell," Atley said. "If we focus on who we are, we'll be OK. We had a great camp at the end of July and had a great first week (of preseason practice)."

With senior quarterback Christian Schaaf returning, St. Vincent looks primed to repeat as I-55 champions. Schaaf was the 2022 conference player of the year. The Blue Jays rolled up more than 300 yards on the ground against the Indians but still lost 46-28.

"St. Vincent lost a decent-sized senior class," Atley said. "They had three or four receivers last year who were part of (their) basketball team. They always recoup really well and are well coached, so they're always the front-runner and favorite."

Jefferson hosts Fredericktown in the season opener Aug. 25.

"People can tell you about being a head coach, but it's a trial by fire like any leadership role."

Matt Atley
Jefferson football head coach

**Gatterer signs with McKendree**

Seckman 2023 graduate Hayden Gatterer signed a letter of intent for powerlifting at McKendree University in Lebanon, Ill. Seated with Gatterer, center, are his parents, Sharyn Leach and Kirk Gatterer. In the back, from left, are Kathy Gatterer (grandmother), coach Bradley Bechel and Bill Gatterer (grandfather).



Charley Carnes played for Team Missouri that won the AAA State Wars Roller Hockey National Championships in Fort Wayne last month. Team Missouri was undefeated at the championships and beat Team California 4-2 in the final. Carnes is an 8-year-old attending third grade in De Soto.

Eagles: Grandview begins season with neutral-site game in St. James

Continued from Page 24A

among our skill guys."

The Eagles will feature a new quarterback, with last year's starter, Jacob Walker, moving to wide receiver for his senior season and sophomore Brendan Martin taking over under center.

Both players believe it's best for the team, Kimminau said.

"It's no big controversy by any means, but as the offseason progressed, we wanted to make sure we have our best athletes on the field to help our team be successful," he said. "And we'll be better for it. Brendan's been taking the reps and doing a great job. (Walker) can be very successful at (receiver).

"We're excited for all aspects of our offense. We want to run the ball, but we want to be able to pass if that's what the defense is giving us. There were times last year we were pigeonholed into one thing."

The other skill positions will draw from players like seniors Camron Hagen, Travis Hoskins, Caleb Medling and Wyatt Thebeau and sophomores Cameron Brooks, Isaac Walker and Wyatt Keim, who is the returning punter after earning honorable mention all-conference honors in that job last year.

The offensive line has four starters returning: senior Jack Stotler, junior Owen Potter and sophomores Tucker Rhinehart

and Ethan Smith, with junior Jacob Hassos preparing to man the fifth spot.

"He's gotten a ton of reps and he's ready," Kimminau said. On defense, 10 of last year's 11 starters are back, headlined by Moore at inside linebacker. But the one starter who graduated will be missed; middle linebacker Austin Blankenship twice led the team in tackles.

"He's a huge piece to lose," Kimminau said. "He's a phenomenal football player, but we have some competitive dudes who want it bad." They include linemen Rhinehart, Potter and Stotler, and a capable secondary led by Hoskins, Thebeau, Walker and Brooks.

As a charter member of the I-55 Conference, Grandview plays a tough schedule every year; the Eagles were 1-5 in 2022 with the lone victory coming against winless Bayless, 32-30. Grandview lost to league rival St. Pius X 36-6 in the first round of the Class 1 District 2 playoffs.

Kimminau said his team has banished that underdog feeling.

"It's tricky," he said. "We've historically been a team that's toward the bottom of (the I-55) and we don't feel that way anymore," the coach said. "We're trying to create a new culture that says we can be with the best."

"Our conference is very competitive and I think this year you're going to see more of that. A lot of the teams graduated a ton of guys and we didn't."

Grandview opens the season with a neutral-site game against Skyline (of Urbana, Mo., north of Springfield) at St. James High School on Aug. 25. Skyline was in Class 2 last year. Grandview originally had scheduled to open against Paris, but that school moved to eight-man football.

"(Skyline) had a similar record (2-8) as us and they played some close games," Kimminau said. "They were a competitive team



Russell Korando photo

Jacob Walker, left, moved from quarterback to wide receiver.

and we're getting ready for a salty bunch."

Summer camp and preseason practice have gone well, he added.

"The biggest thing the coaches have noticed is the numbers (and) attendance, and that's been all summer. The energy's been great and we've had a great (first) week of practice."

"We're excited for all aspects of our offense. We want to run the ball, but we want to be able to pass."

Jason Kimminau
Grandview football head coach



Grandview Eagles I-55 Conference

2022: 3-7

Head coach: Jason Kimminau

*Conference game
Aug. 25 vs. Skyline at St. James, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 1 at Bayless, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 8 vs. St. Pius X, 7 p.m.
Sept. 15 vs. Hallsville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 21 at Perryville, 7 p.m.
*Sept. 29 vs. Herculaneum, 7 p.m.
*Oct. 6 at Jefferson, 7 p.m.
*Oct. 13 vs. St. Vincent, 7 p.m.
Oct. 20 at Chaffee, 7 p.m.

Lancers: Seniors Reed, Eldridge are new leaders on offensive line

Continued from Page 26A

receiver – right on time, too, just after the Lancers lost all their best pass-catchers to graduation.

"I've been trying to get him here since he was a freshman," Smith said. "I told him football was way more fun and he agrees with me now. He's able to run the routes well and he's got a lot of speed."

Ray also knows a good receiver when he sees one, calling Flanagan "a natural."

"His hands are great, he has a good burst," the coach said. "His routes are crisp, even though no one's ever taught him to run them. He's going to be a problem (for opposing defenses)."



Thomas Boldt, a junior this season, leads St. Pius X in prayer following a football game last year.

Sophomore receiver Jack Michaud saw action as a freshman a year ago and at 6-3, with good hands, will complement Flanagan as another capable target for Smith's aerials.

"We've got plenty of speed and good hands at receiver," Ray said.

Returning on the offensive line are center Allen Reed and guard/tackle Ayden Eldridge, both seniors. Junior Payton Shaver (guard) and freshman Jackson Jercinovic (tackle) project as starters, with a fifth to be named.

Ray comes over from a larger school that needed fewer two-way starters; he said probably half of the Lancers' starting 11 on offense will see time both ways.

"(At Hillsboro) we had some guys who subbed in on offense and defense, but they didn't play every snap," Ray said. "(We've) worked hard this summer to make sure (our players are) ready for four quarters. We have some serviceable youth that can come in when needed."

Smith, one of the two-way starters, is moving



Lisa Riddon photos

St. Pius X quarterback James Smith throws a long pass against Grandview in a district game last year. Smith returns to the Lancers as the starting QB.

from linebacker to safety.

"On our defense we run multiple coverages, so there has to be a call from the safety on every play," Ray said. "James is a sharp kid who can make those calls."

Flanagan will take one cornerback spot with the other TBD. Lehn is the thumper at middle linebacker and led the team last season with 88 tackles to go with a fumble recovery and interception. Other linebackers are DeGeare on the strong side and Cody Shaver, Payton's

brother, on the weak side, with Boldt and Thomas as backups.

Flanagan and his former soccer teammate, junior Connor Meffen, will share the placekicking duties, replacing the graduated Drew Merseal.

Ray left Hillsboro's Class 4 neighborhood with a keen awareness of the quality in the I-55 Conference's Class 2 schools.

The Lancers open Aug. 25 at Clayton (3-8 in 2022).

State unveils new vision for Columbia Bottom

This time last year I wrote about the sunflowers at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. The big blooms are a magnet for photographers in the late summer and a productive destination for dove hunters in the fall.

Those two things are not going to change, but a big conversion is coming for one of the largest tracts of public land in the St. Louis region. The state Department of Conservation has decided to turn much of the management of Columbia Bottom over to Mother Nature.

The combined forces of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers have always dominated the area. After historic river levels in 1993 and 1995 swamped the land at the confluence, the conservation department purchased the 4,318-acre area for public use in 1997.

Over the next 10 years the state implemented a vision to bring conservation education and outdoor activity opportunities to an urban corner of the metro area. Then a decade of high-water events devastated those efforts and cost the department a lot of money in a repetitive cycle of damage and repairs.

Floods in 2008, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019 caused closures of the area, and even after the waters receded, silt, debris and damage were left in their wake. The area was under water for six months in 2019 and sediment from the flooding measured as high as four feet



Outdoor Outlook

John J. Winkelman

deep in some areas.

A major component of the new plan is to remove portions of levees built to control the river flows and allow the area to flood naturally. The change will return the bottom land to its original wetland status, allowing it to hold and slow down flood waters.

A new levee will be built at the southern end of the property to protect downstream neighbors, but more than 3,500 acres of the area will be allowed to return to their traditional floodplain functions. The \$27 million project will be paid for by the conservation department and American Rescue Plan Act funds.

By abandoning the strategy of artificially flooding areas of the property to create wetlands pools for waterfowl hunting, the state will save the cost of replacing the damaged river pumping system and dredging the ponds. Instead the department will manage duck and goose hunting opportunities by planting winter-wheat fields that would flood naturally in wet weather.



Finding butterflies on wildflowers is a benefit of expanding natural areas at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area in north St. Louis County.

Planting and manipulating sunflowers and other small grain crops that attract doves will continue as part of the new management plan. Dove hunting season opens on Sept. 1 and continues through Nov. 29. The daily limit is 15 and the possession limit 45. Hunters are required to have a small-game permit and an annual migratory bird hunting permit.

Sunflower plantings for doves attract more than just migratory birds. Photographers and other visitors flock to the area looking for wildlife. By allowing the river and low-lying lands to revert to their inconsistent traditional



Sunflower planting will continue at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area with new management plans announced earlier this year.

cycles of high-water flows, benefits are expected for fish, migratory birds, plants, amphibians, reptiles and other wetland-dependent species.

Reports and photos I have seen of the sunflower bloom this year have looked very good despite the dry stretch of midsummer. When we were there last year, we also enjoyed looking for the less obvious attractions, like wildflowers and pollinators. Those opportunities are likely to increase significantly with the future management plans.

John Winkelman has been writing about outdoors news and issues in Jefferson County for more than 30 years and is the Associate Editor for Outdoor Guide Magazine. If you have story ideas for the Leader outdoor news page, e-mail ogmjohnw@aol.com, and you can find more outdoor news and updates at johnjwink.com.

Comeback: Leader profiles large schools from MAFC Red next week

Continued from Page 24A

a number of other standout athletes propelled the team to an 8-2 record last season, one of the biggest turnarounds in the St. Louis area in many years.

"I did my job well," Jones said, jokingly. "Dan's a great asset for the school, not just a good football coach.

He does a good job with strength and conditioning and kids have bought in.

"These are kids that have been training since they were in junior high. There were times we didn't have that.

It's a real nice combination of kids. There's some really skilled athletes.

"The senior class has some beef-cakes, some big, strong boys. When you're rolling out multiple kids over 200 pounds who can move some people, it's going to be fun to watch."

Jones compared this year's senior class to the Class of 2012, which led the 2011 Hornets to their last winning season (6-4) until last fall. The 2012 seniors included multi-sport stars Stacey Thornton at wingback and Nic Rothweiler at quarterback.

"That was not just a football class," Jones said. "That class of



Russell Korando photo

Caden Raftery blocks for Cohen Compton as the Crystal City running backs look for a big gain in a game last year.

seniors was good at everything. They were good at baseball, basketball – the boys and girls basketball teams went to the (state) quarterfinals. They were student-athletes, great in the classroom."

This week we're featuring 2023 previews of the football teams from the county that compete in the I-55 Conference. One of the first things Fox did when he was hired was pull Crystal out of the league and go independent. That allows him to fill the schedule with schools on a par with Crystal's enrollment.

But I wondered if success would

mean a change of heart. A couple of the I-55 coaches I talked to said they'd welcome the Hornets back into the fold.

Jones, who doubles as the cross country coach in the fall and girls basketball coach in the winter, said absolutely not.

"Nothing's changed," he said. "Those schools are still three and four times our size. Obviously, we've made the right decision. We've been the same-sized school basically since 2013. The 2012 class was the last (one) with Crystal and Jefferson kids. We took a little bit of a beating when we (pulled out) but now it looks like the right decision for our kids."

I'll be at J.J. Commerford Stadium Aug. 25 when the Hornets open their season hosting Chaffee, whom they clobbered 43-0 last year.

After writing about the local I-55 teams, here are five key takeaways:

1. Keeping on the Hornet theme, I'm convinced they have the best back-field tandem in the county in Raftery and senior all-state track star Kanden Bolton. Both are big-play threats anywhere on the field.

2. Dan Oliver was a really good football coach and got as much out of St. Pius X as possible. But I'm really looking forward to how new Lancer head coach Frank Ray applies his defensive approach that worked so well for him at Hillsboro, and how his players respond.

3. Don't sleep on Grandview. I was very encouraged by what I saw at their camp under second-year head coach Jason Kimminau and his group of assistant coaches. Like Crystal, the Eagles were on life support at about the same time when Dave Dallas turned the program around. Nash Moore, at running back, is a name you'll see often in these pages in the coming weeks.

4. He's free as a breeze – Nate Breeze, that is. The Jefferson senior should be one of the top wide receivers in the county this year. All-state in Class 2 last season, the 6-3 Breeze towers over defensive backs. While he caught only 13 passes a year ago, eight of them were for touchdowns and he averaged almost 20 yards per reception.

5. St. Pius X and Herculaneum remain the only football teams in the county still playing on natural grass – to the approval of the old-schoolers in their respective fan bases.

I'll be profiling the larger county schools from the Suburban Conference and Mississippi Area Football Conference Red Division in the Aug. 24 edition. My biggest takeaway from those schools is the huge talent drain from the graduation of all-state stalwarts Cole Ruble (Seckman), Jaxin Patterson and Austin Romaine (Hillsboro) and Arhmad Branch (Festus). For the last few years, figuring out who to focus on was easy. Not so much this season.

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• Sewer Cleaning • Repair
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JONES PLUMBING: drain cleaning, sewer lines, water lines repaired, replaced, water heaters, garbage disposals. 636-586-3799.

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Specialist
Since 1994
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• INDUSTRIAL
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Fully Insured
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FREE upgrade with purchase
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TREE SERVICE

TREE SERVICE

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Tree removal & trimming
Lot clearing
Insured/Licensed
24-hour emergency service
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24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
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Property clearing, removal,
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• Stump Removal • Brush Clean Up
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carver will
beat any price.
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De Soto, MO

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We have Space!

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Made in Missouri,
locally owned.
Since 2003.
New and certified
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Harmar
Lifts for Life
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The Sacred Heart St. Vincent
De Paul Clothing room is open
Tuesday and Saturday from
9-12 located in the Sacred
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Heart Church (555 Bailey Road,
Crystal City). This clothing room
is open for all to shop. We sell
new and used clothes that are
reasonably priced. If you haven't
been to our clothing room please
come by and check us out.

Cub Cadet 42in lawn tractor with
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furniture, 573-482-3141 or 573-
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Vaccine Clinic
Reduced prices at
Circle of Life
Animal Hospital
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8am-Noon**
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PUPPIES- Reasonably priced.
Malipo's and Cavapoo's. Call
or text 573-760-4584

German Shepherd mix - 4 pups.
Dewormed and 1st shots. \$150.
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Quick cash paid for complete
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Woody's CASH 4 CARS & TRUCKS
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Junkers Towed FREE!

WANTED

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BUYING Old fishing stuff. Rods, reels, lures, tackle boxes. Free appraisals. Cash offers. 314-973-2966.

NOTICES

NOTICES

NOTICE

Festus R-VI School District is having a surplus sale on **Friday, September 1st** at our Maintenance Department located at 600 Sunshine Dr., Festus, MO 63028. The sale will begin at 7:00 a.m. and will conclude at 5:00 p.m. Items will include, classroom and office furniture, several refrigerators, chest freezer, gas range, moped, and many other miscellaneous items.

Arnold Senior Living, LLC is seeking Certificate of Need approval to develop and construct a 78-bed assisted living facility with memory care units at the northeast corner of Vogel Road and Old Lemay Ferry Road in Arnold, Missouri 63010. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to direct them to Cody Hagan at 1100 Main Street, Suite 2700, Kansas City, MO 64105, (816) 256-3181, or chagan@gravesgarrett.com.

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
TAX RATE FOR 2023 FOR THE CITY OF
HILLSBORO, MISSOURI, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
The City of Hillsboro, will conduct a public hearing on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Hillsboro City Hall, 101 Main Street, Hillsboro, Missouri, for the purpose of affording the citizens an opportunity to be heard with regard to the tax rate for the year 2023. The following information with regard to said rate is also provided:

ASSESSED VALUATION, CERTIFICATION –
AFTER BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

	2022	2023
Real Estate	\$ 40,663,450	\$ 43,422,701
Personal Property	\$ 10,382,768	\$ 11,826,190
Total	\$ 51,046,218	\$ 55,248,891

The proposed tax rate for the general fund is 0.4168 cents per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation. The proposed tax rate for the park fund is 0.0747 cents per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation. The total tax rate is 0.4915 cents per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation.

Elizabeth Vreeland, City Clerk

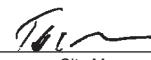
CITY OF DE SOTO

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 6:30 P.M., September 18, 2023 at City Hall, 17 Boyd, at which time citizens may be heard on the property tax rates proposed to be set by the City of De Soto, a political subdivision. The tax rate shall be set to produce revenues, which are reflected in the budget for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2023.

Assessed Valuation (By Categories)	Current Tax Year 2023	Prior Year Tax 2022
Real Estate	\$ 65,543,500	\$ 64,024,200
Personal Property	\$ 18,736,900	\$ 15,741,890
Railroad and Utility	\$ 4,647,786	\$ 3,933,332
TOTAL	\$ 88,928,186	\$ 83,699,422
	Property Tax Revenue Proposed	*Proposed Tax Rate For 2023 (Per \$100)
Fund		
General Fund	\$ 374,566	0.4212%
Park Fund	\$ 95,598	0.1075%
Library Fund	\$ 299,599	0.3369%
TOTAL	\$ 769,763	0.8656%

City of De Soto
By:


City Manager

*Subject to State Auditor's Certification

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Junk Cars
No Title
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Open 7 Days a Week
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Call for free estimate
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vehicles.

junkmycar.com

573-854-8550

Call or Text

BID NOTICES

BID NOTICES

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR:
Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Grandview R-II School District is seeking an Engineering Consulting Service for Wastewater Treatment Facility.

RFQs may be found on the school's website or picked up in Grandview's Central Office

Qualifications are Due by 3:00 p.m. August 24, 2023
Submittals shall be marked:

RFQ-WWTF

Submit proposals to:

Mr. Matt Zoph, Superintendent
11470 Highway C, Hillsboro, MO 63050

Faxing and emailing will be accepted.

The Grandview R-II School District reserves the right to reject any and all submittals, to waive technical defects, and to select the qualification(s) deemed most advantageous to the District.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the RFQ documents in Grandview's Central Office.

Grandview R-II School District Central Office

11470 Highway C, Hillsboro, MO 63050

Website: grandviewr2.com

Fax: 636-944-5239

mcanallyr@grandviewr2.org

The Grandview R-II School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the **Buildings & Grounds Addition** will be received by The Community College District of Jefferson County until 2:00 p.m., **Thursday, September 21, 2023**. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked **Buildings & Grounds Addition**. The sealed envelopes are to be delivered to: Sheree Bell, Director of Purchasing and Auxiliary Services, Jefferson College, Administration Building, 1000 Viking Drive, Hillsboro, MO 63050. Bids will then be publicly opened and read aloud in the **Building and Grounds Meeting Room on the Hillsboro Campus** on Thursday, September 21st, immediately following the 2:00 p.m. proposal due time. Each bid shall include a five percent (5%) bid security in the form of a bid bond executed by the bidder and an approved Surety Company.

The **Buildings & Grounds Addition** consists of approximately a 3,500 sf two-room addition to the existing facility. It consists of a shop for campus vehicle maintenance and storage for the hospitality department which will be housed in the enclosure of an existing overhead carport.

Bidders may obtain Contract Documents beginning on Monday, August 28th, 2023 from: County Blue Reprographics, 811 Hanley Industrial Ct, Brentwood, MO 63144, Phone: 314-961-3800. Sets are available at www.countyblue.com. For more information, please contact Project Manager Emily Johanson at Paragon Architecture, 417-885-0002, extension 1016, or by email at: johanson@paragon-architecture.com.

The Owner reserves the right to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder and to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality on all bids. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of **sixty (60) days**.

All contractors must provide a sworn affidavit affirming participation in a federal work authorization program and stating that the contractor does not knowingly employ any person who is not authorized to work in the U.S. The contractor must comply with current Prevailing Wage laws, and other statutory regulations as referred to in the specifications. This project is tax exempt.

A **mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** will be held **Tuesday, August 29th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Building & Grounds Meeting Room, 1000 Viking Drive, Hillsboro, MO 63050**. This meeting is **mandatory** for all prime bidders and strongly recommended for all subcontractors. The project site will be open to contractors for viewing following the pre-proposal conference.

WANTED

Local bow hunter looking for private land to deer hunt closer to home, will share harvest, Rick, 314-882-7570

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Antonia Baseball and Softball - Fall Ball registration will be open through August 12th sign up now antonia.engagesports.net

NOTICES

THANKS St. Jude for answering my prayers without fail. N.J.D.

BID NOTICES

Request for Proposal

The Fox C-6 School District is seeking proposals for janitorial services. Sealed proposals are due by September 8, 2023. To view the full RFP, visit the district website www.foxc6.org



Advertise In The Leader
Help Wanted Classifieds!
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myleaderpaper.com

BID NOTICES

NOTICES

To enforce warehouseman lien for default in payment, Pond Creek Mini Storage, the listed locker contents will be sold at Pond Creek's discretion if full payment is not received prior to release date. Bonne Terre, MO 63628.

Release date:

Thursday, August 31, 2023

UNIT 93 - A. LUYE

UNIT 111 - S. WELLS

UNIT 142 - P. ZUMWALT

UNIT 153 - D. PYEATT

YARD SALES

Sat 8/19, 9521 Meadow, off Jarvis, Hillsboro, 7am-?, ironworker, construction & carpentry tools, lumber & materials, power tools, home items & more. Huge Sale!

DE SOTO, Sat.8/19, 307 S Washington, 7am-? Multi-family! Large variety!

DE SOTO, Fri.8/18-Sat.8/19, 12046 Hillsboro Victoria Rd., Big Yard Sale!!!

FESTUS, Sat, 8/19, 822 Warne, 7am-noon, misc household items, clothing & shoes 25 cents each.

FESTUS, Sat 8/19, 2356 Buck Creek Rd., 7am-2pm, dinning room, dresser, and misc.

HILLSBORO, Sat.8-19, Cedar Trace Subdivision- 6395 Sunny Ridge Rd., 7am-2pm

IMPERIAL, Fri.8/18- Sat.8/19, 3310 Amber Heights Ln. 7am-12pm, Holiday, tools, household, Electrical/Plumbing, and more

PEVELY, Fri 8/18, 1911 Andrew St, 7am-6pm. Multi-Family

ESTATE SALES

Imperial - 800 Windsor Harbor Road , Friday, 8/18-Saturday, 8/19, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Antiques, Furniture, Decor, Kitchen items, Holiday Decor, TOOLS, Yard & Garden. No trailers please. Additional day for pickup on Sunday the 20th if needed.

CHILD CARE

House Springs area, Mon-Fri, any age, Roberta 314-277-6927

READY FOR A GARAGE SALE?



Advertise your garage sale in the Leader classifieds... call 636-931-7560 today!

HELP WANTED

PERFECT FOR RETIREE

Part time office help, Fenton area. Some computer and customer service. 2-3 days a week, starting pay \$12/hr.

314-960-4952



Need someone to cook and deliver 1-2 meals weekly to Scenic Rehab, Herculaneum.
Call Dianna 314-477-3610

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

ROCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HIRING QUALITY PEOPLE TO FILL OUR DRIVER POSITIONS IN THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

PERKS:

- Competitive wage \$18.92 to \$28.91/hr. (effective 7/1/23)
- 6-hour guarantee • Quality, In-House PAID Training Program
- We pay for experience. Call to see the wage rate for which you qualify
- Employee Choice Union Location • Award-Winning Bus Fleet
- Pleasant, positive work environment where you will be treated with respect and are valued

• Your children are eligible for enrollment in Rockwood School District
REQUIREMENTS: Clean MVR and ability to pass a physical and drug screen and must be 21 years of age

BENEFITS: Include 8 paid sick days, 2 paid personal days, unlimited paid snow days, 4 paid Professional Development days, 10 paid holidays, PEERS retirement program, \$10,000 life insurance policy



Current CDL Holders With Valid P & S Endorsements are Eligible for a \$1000 Sign-On Bonus!

Come Be A Part of the Rockwood Experience!

rockwood.ted.peopleadmin.com/hire/index.aspx
Call 636-733-8507 for additional information

BID NOTICES

BID NOTICES

CITY OF FESTUS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ON-CALL LANDSCAPE AND TREE SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The City of Festus (City) is requesting the services of a landscaping company to perform the described services for the City. Please limit your response to this request to no more than four (4) pages. The response should include any information to aid in the selection process, such as company experience, history, testimonials, any certifications of the company or persons at the company, and recent examples of work performed by the company in the services we are requesting. The City requires all submittals to be received by 2:00 pm on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at Festus City Hall, 711 West Main Street, Festus, MO, 63028. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Landscape and tree services, including but not limited to removal, trimming, and debris clean up.

Landscape and Tree Services may include: Removal of tree (live or dead tree), trimming of tree limbs, trimming of tree canopy, tree topping, grinding and removal of tree stumps, tree debris removal.

Routine service request hours shall be 7:00am to 3:30pm, Monday through Friday, with a five (5) day response time to complete the request.

Emergency and holiday request hours (if available) to be as needed with a four (4) hour response time to complete the work. NOTE: THE COMPANY MUST SPECIFY IF EMERGENCY HOURS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CITY.

All work shall be done in accordance with the best trade practices. All safety regulations for the protection of workmen, City employees, pedestrians, and property must be followed. All applicable state and local laws, ordinances, and codes shall apply to this contract.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection committee will include senior staff members of the City. The City will evaluate responses based on a) experience and competence; b) the capacity of the company to perform the work in the timeframe needed; and c) past record of performance.

REQUIREMENTS

Bidders shall include insurance coverage of \$1,000,000 or more, auto coverage, and proof of Worker's Compensation to be submitted with bid paperwork.

Bidders are informed that the Project is subject to the requirements of Section 292.675, RSMo., which requires all contractors or subcontractors doing work on the Project to provide, and require its on-site employees to complete, a ten (10) hour course in construction safety and health approved by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") or a similar program approved by the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations which is at least as stringent as the approved OSHA program. The training must be completed within sixty (60) days of the date work on the Project commences. On-site employees found on the work site without documentation of the required training shall have twenty (20) days to produce such documentation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Written questions about this RFP may be sent by email to jwhaley@cityoffestus.org prior to the submission deadline. Responses will be shared by all interested responders to the RFP.



STL Brite Lights is a leading provider of residential & commercial Christmas light installation in Jefferson & St. Louis Counties.

We are currently seeking motivated & dependable **light installers/technicians & crew leads** to join our team. This is a seasonal position that offers the potential for extended employment in gutter cleaning services year-round. For a full job description or to apply, email customerservice@stlbritelights.com or call (314) 549-1275.

For more information visit our website www.stlbritelights.com.

Add yellow screened box behind your word ad for only \$5 extra per paper.

PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Sunday, August 20th @ 12 p.m.
14244 Dry Fork Rd., Festus 63028

DIRECTIONS: Take 67 South, make a left onto JJ Hwy, left on T, make a right onto Dry Fork Rd., the auction is on the right.

2 BUILDINGS FULL OF NEW MERCHANDISE/ZERO-TURN/ TRAILER/JEWELRY/TOOLS/GUNS

NEW MERCHANDISE: pet gates, pet doors, children's kitchen set, vacuums, toaster oven, hot water dispenser, polish waxer, storage containers, bug zapper, Guitars, fitness gear, Subwoofer, extension cords, electric scooter, figurine toys. **ZERO-TURN:** Alpha Big Dog. **TOOLS/TRAILER/MISC:** trailers, saw, animal cages, heater, flooring, huge amount of name brand dog food, decor, air compressor, washer. **JEWELRY:** big assortment of silver rings. **GUNS:** G Force Arms 20 ga., Stevens 94-20ga., Glock 17 9mm, Glock .22 40 cal., M&P M2.0 9mm., M&P Pro series 9mm., 2) S&W 40 cal. Sigma, 2) S&W M&P 40 cal. Savage .22-20 ga. over and under, Remington 1100 12 ga., Ruger 10-22, Remington 514, S&W 22-A1 custom, Sig Sauer SP 2022 9 mm, Sig Sauer P365 9mm, Raven 25 cal, HI Point 25 cal, Model Little Ranger 22 cal, **MUCH MORE NOT GONE THROUGH AT TIME OF LISTING.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS DAY OF SALE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT. WE TAKE CASH OR DEBIT/CREDIT. NO CHECKS. REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE DAY OF SALE.

JARVIS AUCTION SERVICE, DE SOTO, MO
JIMMY JARVIS 636-524-3115
DAVID FARRIS 1-573-305-6664

VIEW PICTURES AND FULL LISTING ON AUCTIONZIP.COM, (AUCTIONER ID #31825) OR ON OUR FACEBOOK GROUP "JARVIS AUCTION SERVICE"

PUBLIC FARM AUCTION

Saturday, August 19th @ 10 a.m.
14804 Franklin Ridge Rd., De Soto 63020

DIRECTIONS: From Festus take 67 South to V Hwy - Valles Mines exit, make right onto V Hwy, left onto Sunrise School Road, left onto Hardin Rd., right onto E Hwy, left onto Englewood, left onto Franklin Ridge, the auction is on the left.

HOUSEHOLD-TRUCK-TRACTORS-ZEROTURN-EXCAVATOR- TRAILERS-TOOLS-GUNS

HOUSEHOLD/MISC.: couch, several pieces of furniture, records, fishing items, 6 ft. wooden rocking horse, stove, dishwasher, refrigerator, bakers rack, wood pile, paddle boat, Jon boat with trailer, drum sets, gun safe. **TRUCK:** 2012 Ford F350 204xxx, 6 speed auto transmission 4x4 V-8 Knapheide body Sensata dimensions super inverter for 120 volt. **TRACTOR/EQUIPMENT:** 50th anniversary Jubilee, brush hog, skid loader bucket, New Holland 256-wheel rake, New Holland haybind, several hay rakes, hay tedder, manure spreader, Hesston model 730 4x4 round baler, Ford diesel 6610 with loader, New Holland 465, Ford 1710 tractor, Cub Cadet tank zero-turn. **EXCAVATOR:** Kubota KX 161-3 mini excavator with 3 buckets with a/c and heat. **TRAILERS/TOOLS:** 2017 enclosed utility trailer with power washing unit -125 hours-cold and heated 400 gallon water tank and 200 ft of commercial hose-concrete scrubbers- HP 23.5 Kohler command pro engine, 18 ft tandem trailer with 4 ft dove tail, 16 ft. tandem axle enclosed heavy duty trailer, boat trailer, Jon boat with trailer, paddle boat, new hardware, hand tools, fuel tank. **GUNS/AMMO:** Ruger 357 magnum, .22 revolver, 45 Colt Stoeger, #.60 Empire hammerless 20 ga, S&W .22 revolver, Ruger 45 auto P90, Henry lever action .22 new in box, Savage Stevens 22-410, Marlin 30-30 lever action, Ben Franklin pellet rifle, Mossberg model 715 semi-auto, Thompson Center compass 6.5 Creedmoor, Stevens 22 pump model 75, Winchester model 190-22, Riley Defense RAK-47-7.62x39, Savage AXIS .308 with scope, New England 20 ga single shot, Ithaca M-66 410 single shot, Bakal 410 over & under, Magnum research 30-06 pistol, Ruger LCR .22, Benjamin blue streak, Ben Franklin .22, Herter's .243, Jing 12 ga, Winchester 1897, several BB guns, big lot of misc. ammo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS DAY OF SALE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT. WE TAKE CASH OR DEBIT/CREDIT. NO CHECKS. REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE DAY OF SALE.

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CNAs & LPNs - All Shifts
CMT - Full-Time, Evening Shift
Housekeeping

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573-358-2800

FIELD SERVICES TECHNICIAN

JEFFCO Public Sewer District is accepting applications for a Field Services Technician. Duties include, assisting the Plant Operator in the operation & maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, pumping stations, collection systems, equipment, facility grounds, sample collection and associated record-keeping and reporting. Applicants must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid Missouri Driver's License, with the ability to obtain an appropriate CDL level as necessary or required and possess a minimum Missouri Department of Natural Resources WW-D Wastewater Operators Certification. This is a full-time position that may require to be on call for after-hour emergencies with salary based on experience. Candidates will be subject to pre-employment drug testing and background check. Benefits include PTO and sick time, the ability to earn paid overtime, pension, medical and dental insurance. Please send resume and completed application to P.O. Box 632, Hillsboro, MO 63050 to be considered for the position.

An application can be found on our website www.jeffcopsd.org/employment

WE ARE HIRING!

WASTEWATER OPERATOR
Starting Salary Dependent on Qualifications

Benefits:

- Health & Dental insurance for each employee paid by the City of Pevely
- LAGERS Retirement
- 13 Paid Holidays
- Vacation, Sick, Comp, and Personal Time
- Ability to earn paid overtime
- Regular hours are Monday - Friday

Applicants MUST hold appropriate licensing through DNR

For more information or to download our application go to www.cityofpevely.org/jobs or scan the QR code above

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WIN! WIN!
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HELP WANTED

Elite Lawn Care is looking for motivated individuals who like working outdoors and bring a positive attitude with them. Jobs may include mowing and landscape maintenance, landscape installation, mulching, etc. Please call us at 314-229-3117 or apply in person at 2247 Front Street, Pevely, MO 63070 from Monday thru Thursday, 8am to 10am.

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Will train,
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Arnold, MO 63010

FIREFIGHTER/EMT
The Dunklin Fire Protection District is accepting applications for a fulltime Firefighter/EMT. Candidates must be Missouri certified Firefighter I & II and hold a current Missouri EMT-B licensure. The salary is \$51,820.00 annually. Candidates must be willing to work a modified Kelly shift, holidays and weekends. Paid employee and family insurance. A list of employee benefits will be provided with the application. Applications may be picked up Monday through Friday 8am-4pm at the Dunklin Fire Protection District 1987 Hwy Z Pevely, MO. 63070. All applications must be turned in by 4pm on September 8, 2023. Chief Bradley R. Williams (636) 475-7401



Sinclair & Rush, Inc.
Now Hiring Maintenance
Technicians

Incentives Offered:
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*Community Involvement

Requirements:
*2-5+ yrs. experience in a manufacturing environment or degree in related field
*Strong troubleshooting & machine repair skills essential
*Pneumatic, Hydraulic, & Electrical understanding essential
*Piping, Welding & Braze skills a plus
*PLC and relay logic experience a plus
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HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
CARPENTERS

Weekly & competitive pay.
Must have valid drivers license.
636-337-7733

Maintenance Mechanic
and Laborer

Salary Based on experience. All around mechanic to do preventative maintenance on cars & truck, diesel & gas, small engines and outboard motors. Welding & cutting helpful. Hours flexible, full or part time. Located in Bloomsdale, MO rivdive@brick.net

HELP WANTED

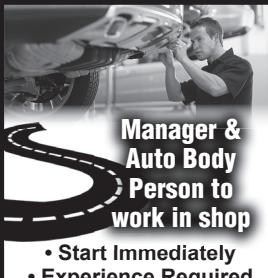
Love to Feed Kids

Rockwood School District Food Service is hiring cheerful, dependable people including Management. Work: Daytime Mon. - Fri. Apply at www.rsdmo.org or 636-733-3253

Experienced CDL dump truck drivers. Must know manual and have air breaks. Starting \$25/hr, Matt 314-732-2648 Andrea 636-343-3066

HELP WANTED

Auto Body Shop Hiring For



Manager &
Auto Body
Person to
work in shop

- Start Immediately
- Experience Required

Send Resume To:
daboffestus@sbcglobal.net

HELP WANTED

HICV Timber Creek Resort

FT Seasonal
Activities Associate

FT General Maint Tech II

FT Groundskeeper

Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Must be able to pass a background check and drug screen. \$1000 sign on bonus paid after 90 days of service. (Bonus does not apply to seasonal positions.)

Apply online at www.holidayinnclub.com

MMCT Inc. is hiring experienced
remodeling carpenters!

Experience in drywall, trim, door installation, and flooring. Experience with electrical and plumbing a plus. A minimum of five years' experience. Transportation and a clean driving record a must. Starting Pay Based on Experience. Medical benefits & Paid Time Off.

Please give us a call (636) 797-4440 or stop by our office to fill out an application:
9130 Old State Route 21, Hillsboro, MO 63050

Help Wanted
Hiring Immediately!

The Fox School District has immediate openings for:

- Food Services (PT & FT) • CKC Site Assistant
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 - Parent Educator • Nurse
 - Teacher Assistant • Teacher Aide
 - Substitute Custodians
- Substitute Teachers • Substitute Nurses

To apply (636) 296-8000 or visit www.foxc6jobs.com

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Katie Brunner -
Human Resource &
Safety/Compliance
Manager
636-937-8481
katie@huskeybus.com

Camp Ranger - Camp
Cedaredge in Pevely, MO

- General maintenance for Council properties and facilities for use by Council membership.
- Assists in securing camp properties and facilities.
- Experience in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting, masonry, maintenance and repair of motorized vehicles, heating/air conditioning and pool systems.
- Ability to work flexible schedule, including evenings and weekends.
- Provides 24-hour emergency coverage if scheduled.
- Works closely with volunteers and Council staff to ensure troop, day and resident campers have a successful camping experience.
- Class E license or ability to attain one.
- Red Cross Adult/Child CPR/AED certification and Red Cross First Aid certification or ability to attain one.

Apply: <https://www.girlscoutsem.org/en/discover/our-council/careers.html> or call Senior Ranger at 636-475-4564

HELP WANTED

DIEB ENTERPRISES IS HIRING!!

BILLING ASSISTANT

Great attention to detail and strong efficiency skills required. Must be computer literate and able to use Microsoft Office (Word & Excel) as well as perform some bookkeeping duties.

REPAIR TECHNICIAN
FOR FOUNTAIN &
PAYMENT UNITS

Great attention to detail and good attendance required. Position is entry level, training will be provided.

Hillsboro location, benefits available upon eligibility. Drug screening and background check will be required.

To learn more about our company and to apply, please, visit us at:

www.diebenterprises.com



WESTFALL COMPANY, INC.

124 Workman Ct., Eureka, MO 63025

Fiberglass Fabricator/Field Service Technician

Full-Time \$19 - \$22 an hour

DUTIES:

In-warehouse and field fabrication of fiberglass pipe spools, fiberglass fittings, tank modification/repair, and custom fiberglass fabrication. Fabricators are also field service technicians, often going on-site to factories/power plants to field-repair fiberglass pipe, tanks, and structures. The ability to travel, sometimes for several days a week, is required. Travel will be within Missouri, Illinois, and southwestern Kentucky. Other duties include occasional loading and unloading of trucks, packaging of outgoing shipments that would need to be palletized, and general warehouse upkeep.

Training will be provided to obtain the relevant certifications to perform this work. Forklift certification training is also available. Overtime and weekend work are sometimes required, based on emergency service calls (overtime pay will be given in these scenarios). Per Diem and mileage compensation are provided. Travel to job sites is done in company-owned trucks and work is done using company-owned equipment. Experience in this field is encouraged but not required.

Drug testing/screening is required. Must be able to lift at least 60 lbs and be able to use power tools.

BENEFITS: Dental Insurance, Health Insurance, Paid Time Off and Professional Development Assistance

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: No experience needed.

SHIFT: 8 hour shift

WEEKLY DAY RANGE: • Monday to Friday • Weekend Availability

WORK SETTING: • Construction Site • Outdoor Work • Warehouse

ABILITY TO COMMUTE/RELOCATE: Eureka, MO 63025: Reliably commute or planning to relocate before starting work (Required)

Please contact Alan or Zach Westfall 636-938-3113 or email sales@westfallcompany.com

HELP WANTED

Weekend bartenders Amvets 48, 1075 Amvets Dr, De Soto, after 1:30pm, apply in person.

BARN HELP: reliable, 2 days/wk, 2hrs day \$25 day 636-586-4435.

Security - Responsible for a wide variety of physical security functions including security gate operations, vehicle patrols, surveillance, and reporting. goosecreeklake@gmail.com or stop in the office for application

Custom Guttering Inc is looking for a dependable full time gutter installer, no experience needed, on the job training, please call and leave a message and Nathan will call you back, 636-586-2119

ROOF TRUSS Designer. Mitek software, possible work from home, 314-413-0506.

General Maintenance - Responsible for a wide variety of general grounds keeping maintenance systems including lawn care, facility maintenance, snow removal, road repair, and wastewater control. Maintain vehicles and equipment. goosecreeklake@gmail.com or stop in the office for application

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 - Custodian
- HVAC Maintenance Technician
- Plumbing Maintenance Technician

40 hrs./week, 12 months/year and Competitive Salary

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- Retirement through the Public Educational Employee Retirement System (PEERS) of Missouri
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Apply at <https://rockwood.ted.peopleadmin.com/hire/index> or Call 636-733-3270

EOC

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Housekeeping/ Laundry
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MUST HAVE CLASS A OR B CDL
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You'll assist people with their personal hygiene and support individuals who can have behavioral challenges and other complex needs. You'll support people with housekeeping, shopping, outings, and appointments.

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- **Competitive Pay:** Pay on Demand, Full benefits package for employees working 30+ hours/week, including a 401(k) with a 3% company match
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- **Job Security:** A stable job at an established, growing company
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Laborers (\$21.10/hour) – 12 Hour Rotating Shifts

Maintenance Mechanics (\$33.31/hour)

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Process Engineers (experienced)

If interested please call 636-931-2501 or email

Maureen.Tokar@buzziunicemusa.com.

For the full advertisement

and to apply online

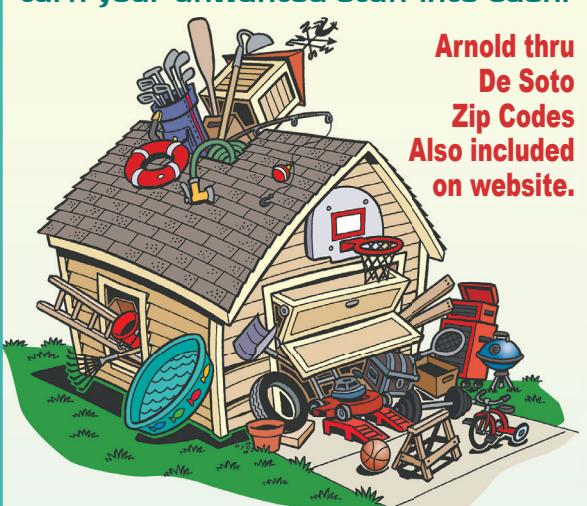
please visit www.buzziunicemusa.com (Human Resources/Careers Tab).

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6 In Stock | 2 On the Way

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